INSIDE

INSPIRING HOMES WITH HEART

Open for Inspection
see page 47

KITCHEN IDEAS FOR ENTERTAINERS

- At home with celebrity cooks
- Tips & tricks to impress your guests
- Shannon Vos's design essentials

FANCY THAT
High tea with a modern twist

made with love

How to create the perfect family space



Maggie Beer's party pointers



Builder Wayd's reno advice

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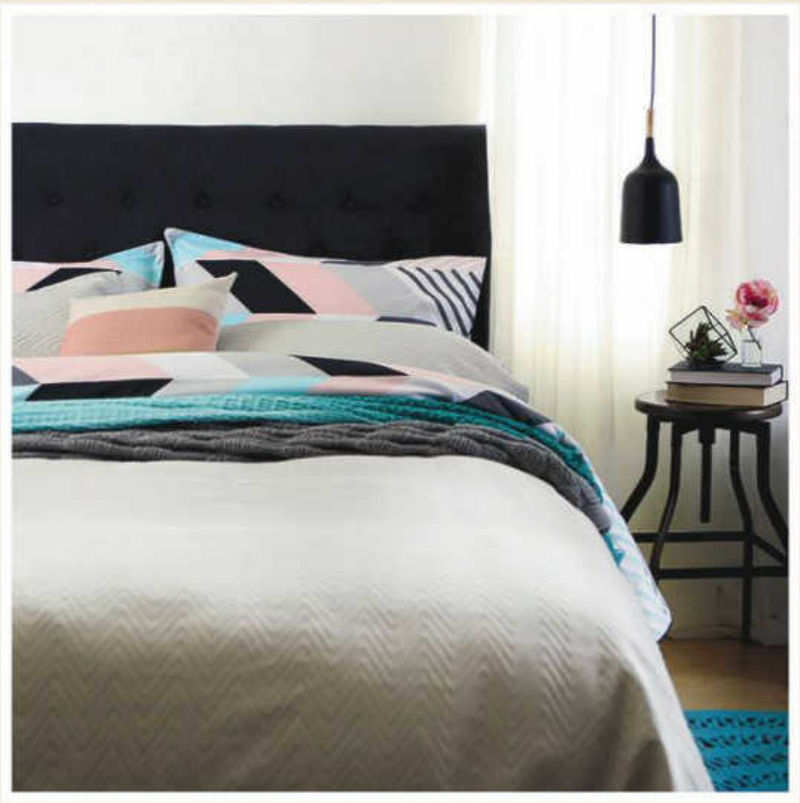
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You've built your dream kitchen, now's the time to use it!

Sharing your home with family and friends is one of life's greatest joys. For some. While it certainly is for me, I understand that not everyone feels the same. However, there are definitely ways to minimise the stress and effort that goes into any occasion, big or small.

For starters, only invite people you like. I'm not joking. Entertaining is so much more stressful when you're grumpy that you've extended the invitation in the first place. Conversely, sometimes it's nice to use your friends as guinea pigs, testing out new recipes you like the look of for the 'real' guests another time. The guinea pigs are pretty happy for the free meal (new-ish parents are best in this case any meal they haven't cooked is a winner), and you get to feel comfortable with the recipe.

When it comes to the actual food offering, this issue, we called on some of our favourite experts. Kirsten Jenkins, who works on our sister title *delicious.* and caterer Sam Gant of Pot & Pan both, in my eyes, hit the perfect balance between flavour, occasion and easy presentation. Turn to page 134 for their advice on how to cook for friends and actually enjoy it.

Even better, if you're planning a renovation and know you want to build a space that's going to suit your social tendencies and be the hub of your home, you'll find all the big design decisions on page 118.

If you need some inspiration for an afternoon tea, head to page 156 where you'll find our clever team has given the old-school high tea a modern decorative spin. Thank goodness they left well alone with the chicken sambo, though; you can't go wrong with the old-school there.

Claire

We've introduced a few new regular pages up the front of the magazine, such as 'Perfect Pairs' on page 24 and a new food page on page 154. We'd love to know what you think!



open house!

We held our most recent Open for Inspection event, thanks to Sheridan, in Palm Beach, NSW. I hung out with Shannon Vos and a select group of bloggers – watch the tour on insideout.com.au and turn to page 47 for the story.



WRITE IN TO WIN You could win a Marc Newson kettle and toaster from Sunbeam, valued at $398. Visit sunbeam.com.au for a further look. To enter, tell us, in 25 words or fewer, what's the best part of your morning routine. **TO ENTER** Send entries (with your contact details) to 'Inside Out Sunbeam' competition, Locked Bag 5030, Alexandria NSW 2015 or email insideout@newsltd.com.au.

HAIR & MAKEUP: SAM POWELL. PHOTOGRAPHY: (PORTRAIT) NIGEL LOUGH; (OPEN FOR INSPECTION) SIMON WHITBREAD. STYLING: (OPEN FOR INSPECTION) MARIA DYONIZIAK. COMPETITION TERMS AND CONDITIONS: ENTRIES OPEN 25/02/16 AT 00:01 AEDT AND CLOSE 23/03/16 AT 23:59 AEDT. AUSTRALIAN RESIDENTS AGED 18 YEARS AND OVER ONLY. ONE WINNER DETERMINED ON 28/03/16 AT 16:00 AEDT AT NEWSLIFEMEDIA PTY LTD, LEVEL 1, 2 HOLT STREET, SURRY HILLS, NSW 2010. WINNER WILL BE NOTIFIED BY TELEPHONE AND IN WRITING. THIS IS A GAME OF SKILL AND CHANCE PLAYS NO PART IN DETERMINING THE WINNER. TOTAL PRIZE POOL VALUED AT $398. FULL TERMS AND CONDITIONS AVAILABLE AT INSIDEOUTCOM.AU AND SEARCH FOR 'MARCH 2016 ISSUE.' PRIVACY POLICY IS AVAILABLE AT NEWSCORPAUSTRALIAPRIVACY.COM

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Fall in love with Piper

Sometimes the most stylish things come in small packages. This compact Park Avenue–inspired design features slim arms carefully tailored to achieve a clean modern look. Choose it in beautifully upholstered corrected grain leather that's as sophisticated as it is practical for everyday life. Perfect for small spaces or paired up for a minimalistic look in a larger room, the Piper is just one of our exciting new additions.



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Pilu at Freshwater, Sydney.
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KITCHEN APPLIANCES
HANDMADE IN ITALY
Pictured the ILVE Majestic M 150 FDMP in matt black.



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take a tour
You're invited into this elegant and breezy beach house on Sydney's Northern Beaches



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our cover look

With its black-framed windows, open feel and plenty of seating options, this room is the hub of family life in a Sydney home. Owner and interior designer Fiona has done a brilliant job retaining the elegance of the Edwardian house, while also giving it an update to suit her family of six, including her little one, Rupert, seen here in Mum's arms. Turn to page 74 for more.

Photography: Annabelle Hickson
Styling: Megan Morton

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here's what you'll find **this month** at our *online home*

ideas to style a bare corner

Create a cosy reading nook or give that awkward space a style makeover with these decorating tips



expert advice

Our Panel architect, Andrew Benn, shares his top tips on how you can gain extra storage space in and around the home.

renovation tips

No matter what stage you're at with your reno – from planning to the finishing touches – you'll find expert advice, inspiring images and hard-won wisdom from fellow renovators.

product guides

We've compiled the ultimate guide to bathrooms with clever ideas and on-trend buys to help you design your dream oasis.



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how to arrange pillows

Check out our how-to videos with Panel decorator Lisa Koehler.



head to our guides section for *10 of the best plant stands*

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IN CASE YOU MISSED IT...

Here are the top posts from our social media platforms this month



WINNING PIN!

A bedroom from our September 2015 issue hit many an online moodboard with this striking four-poster being repinned 514 times!

t A little birdy told us that kitchen trends were a hot topic this month. @CantileverInt's kitchen forecast was retweeted seven times



most double tapped

Holly Hipwell's (**@theflowerdrum**) cute study attracted lots of Insta love. With the help of @westelmaus, this office is warm and inviting.



reader spotlight

This colourful flat-lay by Sarah Shanahan (@sarah shanahan _lifestyle) caught our eye. Our Instagram hashtag is #insideoutmag.

IN YOUR NEWS FEED

On Facebook, you loved hearing Shannon Vos name and shame his top 5 small-space mistakes, with more than 2500 friends giving it the thumbs up



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IN GOOD TASTE

Rachel's Gourmet Greek Dessert Yoghurt

Combining thick, creamy yoghurt with on-trend flavours like boysenberry and vanilla, Rachel's Gourmet Greek Dessert Yoghurt is created for lovers of fine food. Try our other taste sensations – sophisticated salted caramel and smooth butterscotch and vanilla bean.

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things we love

time to celebrate
This Danish label continues to set the benchmark

We've always been partial to Ferm Living's Nordic-chic mix of pattern and colour, which has made its impression on everything from wallpaper to soft furnishings to desktop accessories. For its 10th anniversary, the label has ventured into furniture with the 'Herman' chair. This navy one has caught our eye, as have these geometric blue-tinted accessories.

Ferm Living dinner mat, $46; 'Collect' vases, $189/assorted set of 4; tray, $84, 'Half' candleholder, $60; 'Herman' chair, $599; 'Maze' blanket, $209; 'Quilt' cushion, $189, 'Lines' wallpaper, $125/10m roll, all Designstuff, (03) 9592 2960.



PALETTE

in full bloom

Update your home with a paint scheme inspired by floral tones

COMPILED BY **LIANA HAKIM**

The great outdoors is an endless source of inspiration and this month, we turn to Mother Nature's gems, gorgeous blooms. For a hint of colour, try soft green, pink and violet teamed with neutrals or go bold with vibrant jewel shades for a dramatic look.

'Clean & Protect' low sheen interior paint in Fuchsia Bloom, $60.90/4L, British Paints, britishpaints.com.au.

'Wash&Wear 101 Barrier Technology' low sheen acrylic paint in Snow Green Quarter, $38.90/1L, Dulux, dulux.com.au.

'Endure' interior low sheen paint in Safflower, $40.95/1L, Taubmans, taubmans.com.au.

'Clean & Protect' low sheen interior paint in Pink Drop, $56.90/4L, British Paints, as before.

'Wash&Wear 101 Barrier Technology' low sheen acrylic paint in Peplum Quarter, $38.90/1L, Dulux, as before.

'Wash&Wear 101 Barrier Technology' low sheen acrylic paint in Femininity, $45.90/1L, Dulux, as before.

'Clean & Protect' low sheen interior paint in Bollywood Jade, $60.90/4L, British Paints, as before.



PHOTOGRAPHY: (MAIN) LISA COHEN. (PAINT SWATCHES) SAM McADAM-COOPER. PAINT COLOUR MAY VARY ON APPLICATION


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Get your dose of design through David Harrison's blog at **designdaily.com.au.**

cult classic

A sofa is the centrepiece of a living space and these two versions push the boundaries

WORDS **DAVID HARRISON**

THE ORIGINAL

Tacchini 'Sesann' sofa by Gianfranco Frattini

The form: A long, low unstructured sofa featuring a gathering of fabric or leather within an exposed tubular metal framework. **What makes it special:** The Italian architect Gianfranco Frattini was apprenticed to Gio Ponti from 1952 1956 and produced a number of important furniture designs in this period, culminating in 1956 with a Compasso d'Oro nomination for his 'Model 849' armchair for Cassina (recently reissued by Tacchini and renamed 'Agnese'). Through the late '50s until the early 2000s, Frattini worked across a number of industrial design, furniture and interior projects, with furniture for brands such as Cassina and Bernini, lighting for Artemide, Arteluce and Lucitalia, and interiors for restaurants, nightclubs and apartments from Milan to Tokyo. While the 'Sesann' collection of two- and three-seater sofas and armchair has been reissued by Tacchini, it was originally designed for Cassina and was just one of a number of standout pieces he created in the '70s. The informality of the design, with its delicate tubular steel 'frame', was a revolution. **Expect to pay:** $9860. **Buy at:** Stylecraft, stylecraft.com.au.



PHOTOGRAPHY: ('SESANN' SOFA) ANDREA FERRARI

THE UP-AND-COMER

Prostoria 'Seam' lounge by Böttcher + Henssler + Kayser

The form: The low form of the 'Seam' lounge by Croatian manufacturer Prostoria is embraced by a fine steel bar that moves from front to rear leg in one continuous ribbon. The upholstery is uninterrupted by cushions or buttons and presents a modern streamlined look. **What makes it special:** The complex geometric upholstery appears to be carved from a solid block. **Expect to pay:** From $3462. **Buy at:** Stylecraft, 1300 306 960. For more info on the designers, go to boettcher-henssler-kayser.de.





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wallpaper

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EDITED BY **MATILDA DUFFECY**







'Cacti' collection

DESIGNER: Bethany Linz

Bethany's wallpaper all starts with a single stroke. "I paint with gouache on thick watercolour paper," says Bethany. "I like to show all the details of the layers and brushstrokes within my wallpaper, so I have a specialist photograph my art, then I blow it up and put it in repeat on the computer." Inspired by wall murals that have aged beautifully with time, this Sydney-based designer is also thankful for the boons of modern technology. "With digital printing, you can go crazy with your ideas, and you can keep the handpainted look that shows every brushstroke but with an affordable price tag," says Bethany. And we're not alone crushing on her work, as her wallpaper appeared in last year's Maison & Objet Paris as a trendsetter.

From $86/lineal metre, Sparkk, sparkk.com.au. Visit bethanylinz.com.



'Summer Printscape' collection

DESIGNER: Emma Cleine of Lumiere Art + Co.

"Wallpaper hands down beats a flat painted surface," says Emma. "Wrapping a large expanse with pattern brings warmth, depth and appeal and marks a time and a place." Emma's background in fine arts as well as all manner of pattern play under her label, Lumiere Art + Co., makes her freshly minted wallpaper one to look out for. "It's only been available for seven months, but it must be said that it was a lifelong dream to have my own wallpaper," says Emma, who is based in Victoria's Mornington Peninsula. The designs feature a palette that sweeps across deep navies, peaches and inky blues with occasional bursts of deep green. Emma cites line, "the movement of paint and the motif of a pompom as her inspirations, which is no surprise when you see her elegant designs that include a sparkle of fun.

From $86/lineal metre, Sparkk, sparkk.com.au. Visit lumiereartandco.com.au.









These Walls wallpaper

DESIGNER: Sara Hingle of These Walls

At some point, we've all dreamed of being our own boss, and Queensland-based designer Sara is no different. After working as an illustrator and editorial designer, a freelance project with friends saw Sara lured by the world of pattern. "Creating patterns seemed like the perfect blend of design and illustration," she says, "This, coupled with my dream to work to my own brief and design, and a gap in my schedule saw the creation of These Walls." Inspiration is varied: "Anything from architecture to vintage patterns from exotic cultures. The 'Scallop Dots' pattern was inspired by glass panelling on my old front door." The locally made range is popping up throughout homes in Australia and as far away as New York. Each design must pass Sara's strict rule. "If I wouldn't buy it, then it doesn't make the cut!"

$230/10m roll, thesewalls.com.au.

PHOTOGRAPHY: (BETHANY LINZ PORTRAIT) IMAGING COLLECTIVE. (EMMA CLEINE PORTRAIT) ARMELLE HABIB. (EMMA CLEINE WALLPAPER) ANNETTE O'BRIEN. (SARA HINGLE PORTRAIT AND WALLPAPER) AMELIA FULLARTON. STYLING: (EMMA CLEINE PORTRAIT) AIMEE TARULLI. (EMMA CLEINE WALLPAPER) JULIA GREEN



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perfect pairs

art & console

Some pieces belong together. Here's our take on an artwork with a shapely table

COMPILED BY **JOSEPH GARDNER**

1



editor's fave

CONTEMPORARY CLASSIC

why it works: The painting's soft tones and organic forms balance the table's bold silhouette

Cymbidium Still Life oil **painting** by Laura Jones, $6000, Olsen Irwin, olsenirwin.com. 'Strut' **console table**, $799, Blu Dot, bludot.com.au.

2





POP

why it works: Each piece has retro-fun appeal, embracing bright colour *Untitled 1* **photograph** by Juli Balla, $2800 (framed), Becker Minty, beckerminty.com. Glas Italia 'XX' **console**, $9760, Space Furniture, spacefurniture.com.au.

3





PRACTICAL MINIMALISM

why it works: Both elements feature neutral tones in a simple yet graphic way 'Sans P2 3' **photograph** by Dan Hocking, from $1870 (unframed), Otomys, otomys.com. 'Tribute' **console** with two drawers, $3200, Zuster, zuster.com.au.

PHOTOGRAPHY: (TOP LEFT) PRUE RUSCOE. STYLING: (TOP LEFT) KIRSTEN BOOKALLIL



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The usability of his products is a key consideration for designer Stephen Roy **(inset)**. His body of work features everything from furniture and accessories to lighting, including the 'Roy' picnic set **(above)**, 'Ande' coat rack **(top)**, 'OneSixth' wall clock **(top right)**, 'Byros' chair **(right)**, 'Hansha' stools **(below)**, and 'Callisto' light **(bottom)**.





DESIGN PROFILE

Stephen Roy

When he's not working as an Adelaide hospital nurse, this designer is creating pieces that are attracting acclaim

WORDS **LEE TRAN LAM**

Were you creative as a kid? Growing up in rural South Australia, I was surrounded with opportunities to work with my hands. As a teenager, I restored vintage motorcycles with my dad, made some terrible furniture and stood in front of our lathe, turning my mum (another) candlestick holder or bowl for Mother's Day.

Tell us about your workspace. I'm lucky enough to be working out of JamFactory in Adelaide. I'm in my final year of a two-year associateship there. I work alongside an extremely talented group of emerging designers under the guidance of Jon Goulder.

Do you have a lot of finished furniture at home, or is everything a work in progress? It's a mix for me. A lot of the pieces I've made have been to fill spaces in my own house. The things I have at home are very finished; they're part of a chapter in my life and I treasure them for what they are. I keep the works in progress for the workshop where it's much easier to discard mistakes and ideas.

What's been your favourite thing to work on? And the most disastrous? I have the same answer to both questions! I'm releasing a range of furniture that utilises a cast-metal bracket system called 'Brace'. It's been a very long development process with more failures, tears and setbacks than I care to recall. But it's that hard slog that makes it one of my favourite pieces and one I'm most proud of.

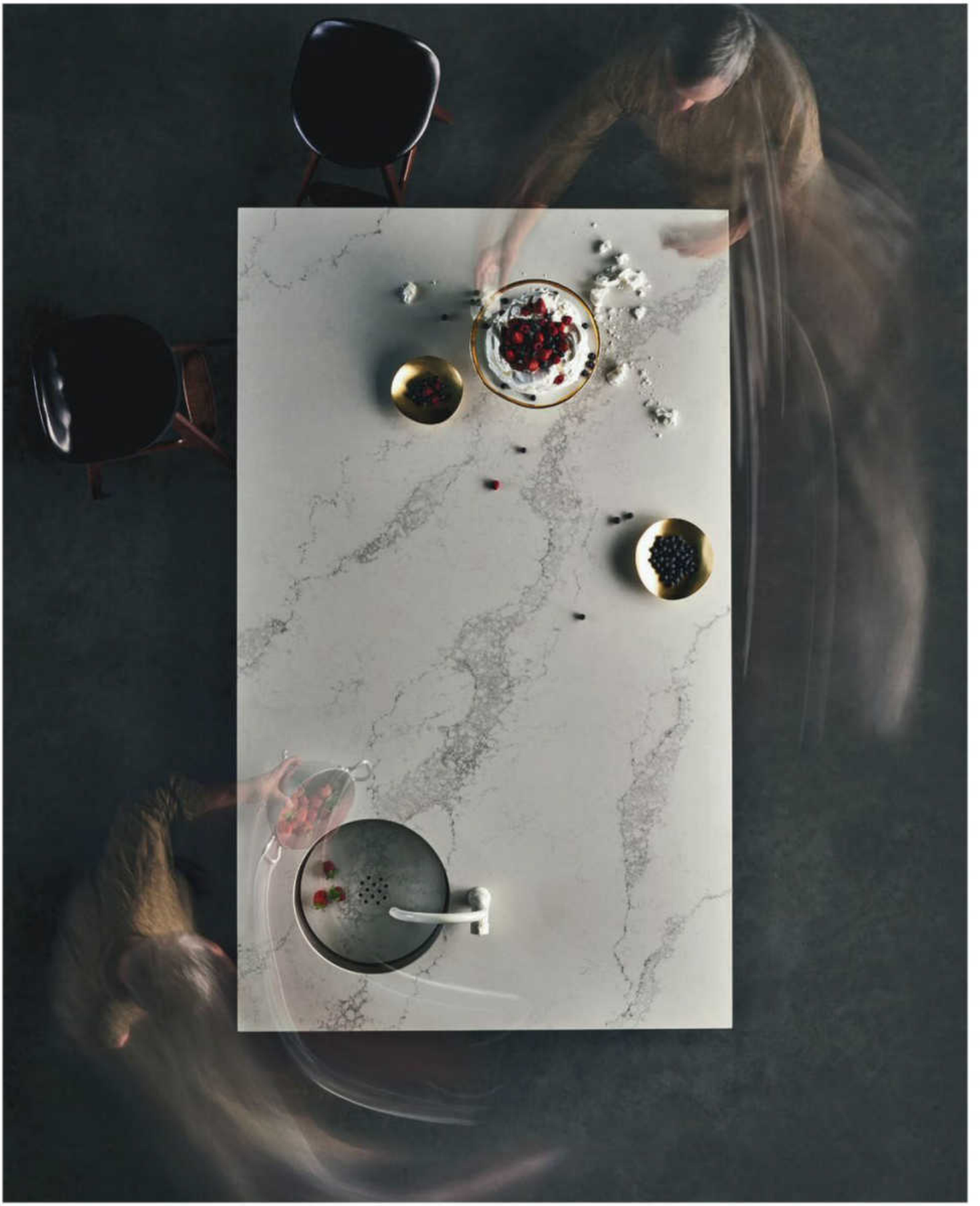
Have you been surprised by the response to your work? I have we've been really busy over here in Adelaide! The studio was lucky enough to be given the chance to design some great pieces for Woods Bagot and the new Royal Adelaide Hospital, both with Jon Goulder. I was nominated as one of Temple & Webster's top 10 emerging designers and my 'Roy' picnic set was selected as a finalist for the Adelaide-based Drink Dine Design award.

You also work as a nurse. How do you handle the two careers? The time management is a bit of a struggle at times; I'm always up for a good nap if I can get one. But in terms of juggling the two, I'm blessed to have great support from the amazing people I work with. Being able to do both reasonably well certainly helps me get through sticky situations. Most importantly, nursing grounds me. I'm occasionally in need of a good reality check.

What do you have coming up? I'm moving to my very own studio. The earlier part of this year will be devoted to a beautiful new furniture collection for JamFactory. Watch this space!

For more info, visit *stephenroy.com.au.*

PHOTOGRAPHY: JOHANIS LYONS-REID



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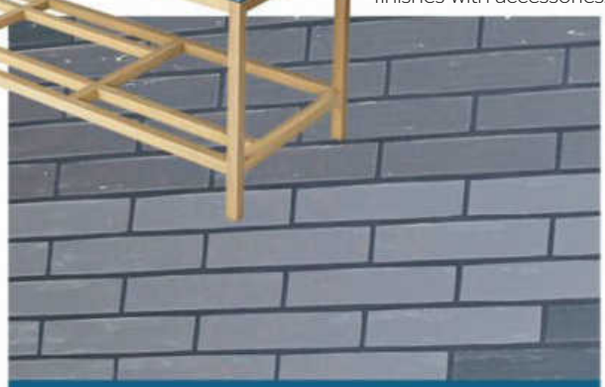


Lisa Koehler is the interior stylist on our renovation specialists Panel (for more on the Panel, turn to page 114). Here, she offers her ideas on decorating a traditional home.

Q *How do you decorate a traditional-style entrance hallway with a modern taste?* *Kate Moore, via Facebook*

The formula for getting the mix right when decorating a traditional house with modern style is about creating balance between both looks. Firstly, work with the existing architecture of the house and embrace the traditional style with wall colours and flooring tones for a cohesive look throughout. Then add furniture elements that are a clear contrast such as a modern console. Keep the lines simple with clean, structured shapes, such as the 'Echo' cabinet from Zuster (pictured, $7500, zuster. com.au), The styling layer can be approached with a combination of traditional and modern accessories to link the two eras together – just ensure the items have the same visual weight so one look does not dominate. Alternatively, if you want it to feel more modern, add colour, smooth textures and reflective finishes with accessories.





Q *I have old subway wall tiles, very closely laid. What is the best way to clean them, re-grout them or enhance their look?* *@conkotis, via Instagram*

David Compagnino, business development manager of Signorino Tile Gallery (signorino.com.au), advises cleaning grout with a solution of "baking soda and white vinegar – you can add ammonia if you like – allowing it to dissolve and adding it to a spray bottle. Spraying this on grout until damp and scrubbing with a toothbrush should do the trick. Removing grout can be pain-staking, however grout colours are extensive these days, so you can go for a colour to complement your tiles."



designer tip
Go for pots of all shapes, textures and sizes but ensure they work together

Q *Could you offer suggestions for styling a medium-sized balcony please?* *Ari, via Facebook*

"When styling a balcony, take a brief from yourself," says **Adam Robinson of Adam Robinson Design** (adamrobinsondesign.com). "Ask questions such as, 'how do I want to use my space?' In a small space, use a side table that can double as seating on those occasions when you have extra guests. Also, if you don't have much floor space, think about using your walls to add interest by installing some pots on hooks to make the most of the space. On the ground, I like to cluster pots in groups of different sizes. If you like a more streamlined feel, choose pots in the same colour and texture try a 'Dagar Eski' pot from Garden Life (pictured, from $495, gardenlife.com.au). Also, understand what the sun does throughout the day to help choose plants, as balconies can trap light. North-west facing is very hot, so requires tough plants. On the other hand, south-facing will require shade-loving plants."

Q *I need help in pulling together all the pieces I like into something coherent.* *David Lane, via Facebook*

"The final stages of the decorating process can be the hardest part, so you're not alone," says **Emma Blomfield, interior stylist and co-founder of The Decorating School** (thedecoratingschool.com). "Consider the pieces you already own and purchase finishing touches that complement these in terms of colour, tone and texture. Buy pieces you really love, not the trendy items chances are you'll still love them in two to three years' time. In order to bring them all together, spend an afternoon arranging all your bits and bobs. The 'odd' rule works well when arranging groupings of threes and fives tend to be the most pleasing to the eye."

EDITED BY MATILDA DUFFECY. PHOTOGRAPHY: (PORTRAIT) NIGEL LOUGH, (BALCONY AND POTS) NATALIE HUNFALVAY. STYLING: (BALCONY AND POTS) ADAM ROBINSON. BELGIAN LINEN CUSHION COVER, $49, AND ROAR + RABBIT 'CIRCLE' CUSHION COVER, $59, WEST ELM, WESTELM.COM.AU

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BEST BUYS

placemats

Mix it up on your tabletop with one of these elegant yet graphic options

STYLING **JOSEPH GARDNER**
PHOTOGRAPHY **CRAIG WALL**



1. Remember grid placemat, $39/set of 4, Eighteen Ten, eighteenten.com.au. **2. Placemat** from a selection at Country Road, countryroad.com.au. **3. Remember cityscape placemat**, $39/set of 4, Eighteen Ten, as before. **4. 'Lab' placemat**, $24.95, Country Road, as before. **5. Society Limonata 'Maya' placemat**, $76, Ondene, ondene.com.au. **6. Chilewich 'Imprint' placemat**, $45, Top3 By Design, top3.com.au. **7. 'Metallic' placemat**, $30/pair, West Elm, westelm.com.au. **8. 'Räsymatto' placemat**, $46, Marimekko, (02) 9281 6519. **9. 'Pathway' placemat**, $8.90, Citta Design, cittadesign.com. **10. Society Limonata 'Chess' placemat**, $75, Ondene, as before. **11. Ferm Living 'Outline' dinner mat**, $55, Urban Couture Design + Homewares, urbancouture.com.au. Brooke Thorn **side bowl** (with blueberries), $40, Koskela, koskela.com.au. 'Flower' **vase**, $52, Marimekko, as before. Klong 'Constella' **candleholder**, $160, Funkis, funkis.com. Brooke Thorn **platter**, $175, Koskela, as before.

STYLING ASSISTANCE: NASIA SYRAKIS

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STYLING **JOSEPH GARDNER** PHOTOGRAPHY **CRAIG WALL**

On table, from left: Iittala 'Copper Lantern' lamp, $495, Great Dane, greatdanefurniture.com. **Aplin Creative 'Light' lamp**, $250, Spence & Lyda, spenceandlyda.com.au. **Parachilna 'Aballs' lamp**, $1710, Ke-Zu, kezu.com.au. **&tradition 'SV6' marble light**, $475, Great Dane, as before. **Tom Dixon 'Trace' table light**, $890, Dedece, dedece.com. **On floor, from left: Menu 'JWDA' table lamp**, $325, Collector Store, (02) 9699 7740. **'Wink' table lamp**, from $280, ISM Objects, ismobjects.com.au. **Pulpo 'Oda' table lamp**, $1125, Hub Furniture, hubfurniture.com.au. **Flos 'Copycat' table lamp**, $1330, Euroluce, euroluce.com.au. **Lightyears 'Volume' light** (on chair), $316, Cult, cultdesign.com.au. Hay 'Paper Porcelain' **cup and saucer**, $63 each, Cult, as before. Karimoku New Standard 'Colour Wood' **dining table** by Scholten & Baijings, $2887, Stylecraft, stylecraft.com.au. Expormim 'Fontal' **chair**, $1036, Ke-Zu, as before. Background in 'Lulu Musk' **linen**, $25/m, Tessuti Fabrics, tessuti-shop.com.

STYLING ASSISTANCE: NASJA SYRAKIS

"A shapely lamp cuts a fine silhouette, even when it's turned off" JOSEPH GARDNER, MARKET EDITOR

BRICK FIX



DESIGN YOUR SPACE

The new 'Brick Design' collection of textured porcelain tiles are made to be used on walls (as seen above) and floors. They come in six matt colours that can be mixed and matched to create a look to suit any space, from modern inner-city lofts to more traditional interiors.

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3 KEY PIECES

build it up

Trade in your five year old's playroom for a kitted-out space where he can put on his mini hard hat and hit the tools

STYLING **VANESSA COLYER TAY** PHOTOGRAPHY **SAM McADAM-COOPER**





1 A soft rug underfoot will stop this workshop from becoming too industrial. This neutral option neatly ties in with the rest of the room's tones, while also bringing another layer of texture. 'Beni' Moroccan **rug**, $699, Olli Ella, olliella.com.au.



2 Go for a solid round table that allows friends to join in and has ample room to spread out for construction of a whole town. Round hardwood **table**, $179.95, KidSmile, kidsmile.com.au.

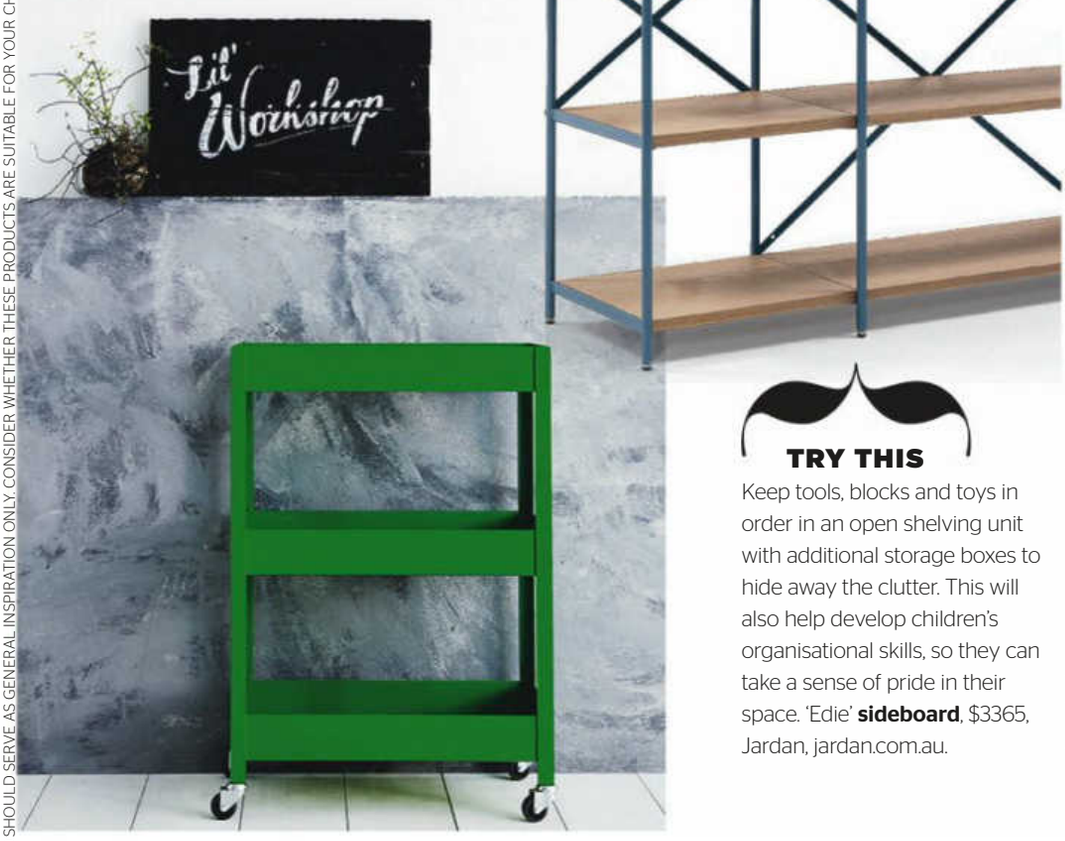


"Plenty of storage options will clear space for building-block skyscrapers"
VANESSA COLYER TAY, STYLIST



'Finland' crate **pendant light**, $160, Empirical Style, empiricalstyle.com.

3 Keep a portable trolley packed with storage tubs for all your child's building materials and tools. Easy access should make packing away easier. 'GP' **trolley**, $630, Koskela, koskela.com.au.





'Tall House' **shelf**, $50, Monty Tribe, montytribe.com.au. **Toy**, details below.



Free **art print**, $119.95 (unframed), Blacklist, blacklistore.com.au.

TRY THIS

Keep tools, blocks and toys in order in an open shelving unit with additional storage boxes to hide away the clutter. This will also help develop children's organisational skills, so they can take a sense of pride in their space. 'Edie' **sideboard**, $3365, Jardan, jardan.com.au.

STYLING ASSISTANCE: LAUREN BECKER AND AMBER FAIRBAIRN. FINN WEARS T-SHIRT, HIS OWN, AND ALPHABET SOUP SHORTS, $59.95, MY MESSY ROOM. MYMESSYROOM.COM.AU. LOW WALL IN 'PENTIMENTO' LIME WASH IN MINERAL, $38/1L, MUROBOND. MUROBOND.COM.AU. PAINT COLOUR MAY VARY ON APPLICATION. *THIS IMAGE IS SHOT IN A STUDIO AND SHOULD SERVE AS GENERAL INSPIRATION ONLY. CONSIDER WHETHER THESE PRODUCTS ARE SUITABLE FOR YOUR CHILD BEFORE PURCHASING

AND THE REST... On ledge, from left: Areaware 'Cubebot Micro' **robot toy**, $14.95, Until. Peppermint and moss **garden ball**, $20, Pigweed. 'Lil' Workshop' **sign**, POA, Ashdown & Bee. Fanny & Alexander heirloom **wooden tools**, $115/assorted set of 4, Plyroom. Brick **truck toy**, $45, Koskela. Shoe last **coat hook**, $45, Original Finish. Herschel Supply kids' **backpack**, $79.95, Kido Store. **On sideboard:** Timbre 'Classic' **speaker**, $999, Koskela. QToys natural tree **blocks**, $49.95/assorted set of 42, KidSmile. Areaware 'Balancing' **blocks**, $99.95, Until. 'Couleurs' **bags**, from $7 each, Le Forge. Papo Asian **elephant figurine**, $11.95, Kido Store. NakNak 'The Box' **boxes**, $129.95 each, Resident GP. Rose In April 'Alice' **stool**, $125, Kido Store. **On table:** QToys construction **building blocks**, $59.85/assorted set of 85, KidSmile. **On trolley:** 'Weave' **bags**, from $39 each, Uashmama. Rattan pendant **light shade**, $89, The Family Love Tree. **ADDRESS BOOK** page 164

COLOUR TREND

teal & petrol blue

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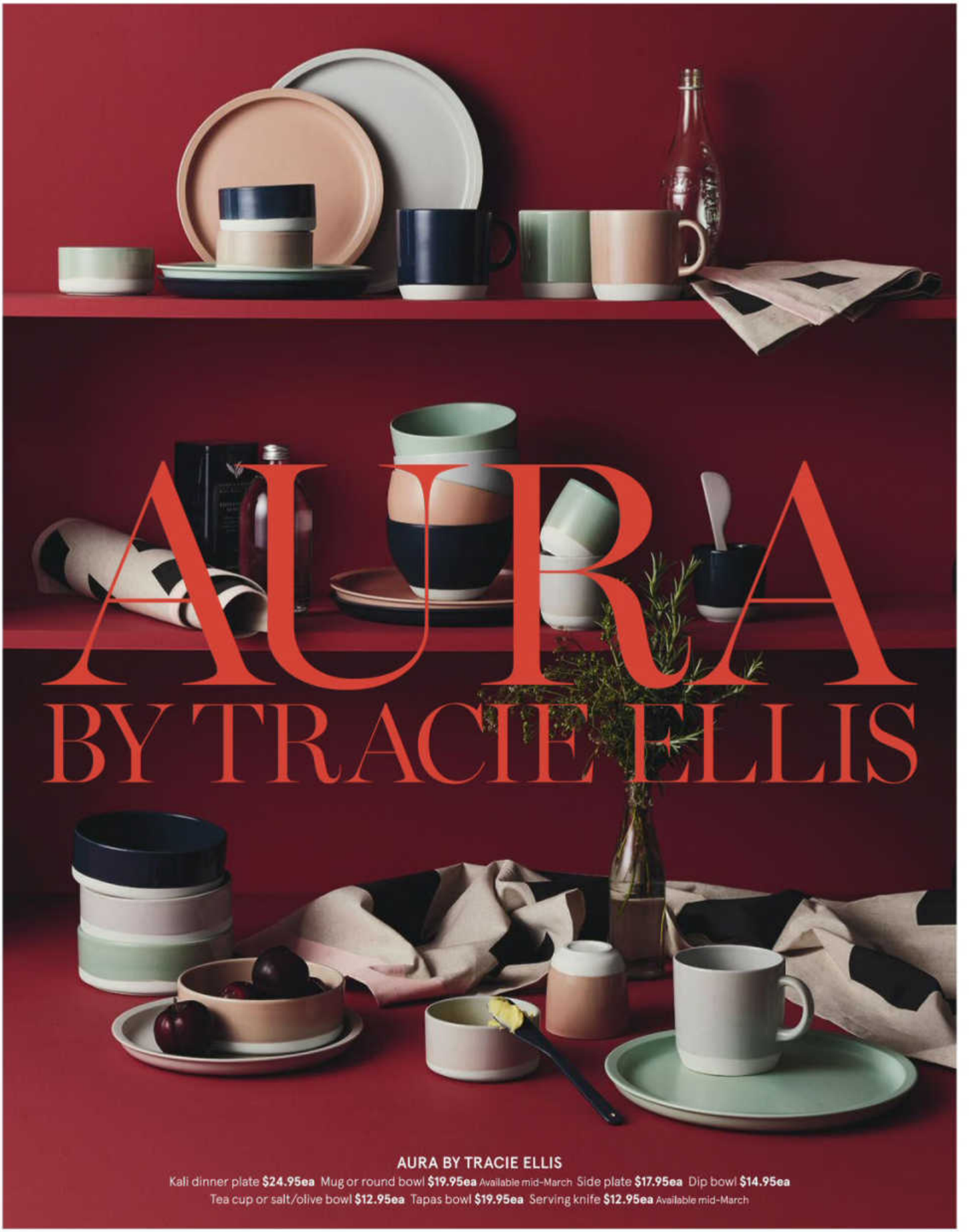
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1. Designer Collection 'Tropical 3' **wallpaper**, $89/sqm, Scandinavian Wallpaper & Decor, wallpaperdecor.com.au. **2.** 'Clean & Protect' low sheen interior **paints** in Santiago Blue and Riverland Blue, $60.90/4L, British Paints, 132 525. **3.** 'Zacharia' **pendant light** in Petrol Blue, $99, Freedom, freedom.com.au. **4.** 'Boubou' **cushion cover** in Jade, $64.90, Citta Design, cittadesign.com. **5. & 6.** Kristina Krogh *Feathers* **print**, $499 (unframed), and AYTM 'Quarter Circle Unity' **tray** in Forest Green, $39, Urban Couture Design + Homewares, urbancouture.com.au. **7.** 'Lewis' deep **sofa** in 'Pitch Ranger' fabric, $5973, Jardan, jardan.com.au. **8.** &tradition 'Another' **rug** in Blue Thunder, from $350, Great Dane, greatdanefurniture.com. **9.** 'Fig' **vase** in Indigo, $132, Bisonhome, bisonhome.com. **10.** Green marble **trivets**, $38 each, Safari Living, safariliving.com. **11.** &tradition 'Catch' **chair** in Teal & Oak, from $2250, Great Dane, as before.

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Kali dinner plate **$24.95ea** Mug or round bowl **$19.95ea** Available mid-March Side plate **$17.95ea** Dip bowl **$14.95ea**
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TOP 10 PICKS

garden party

Invite Mother Nature into your home with this collection of fun pieces and botanical designs

STYLING **JOSEPH GARDNER**

1. Forestier 'Papillon' **suspension lamp**, $702, Ke-Zu, kezu.com.au. **2.** Missoni Home 'Mebera 156' **rug**, $4198, Spence & Lyda, spenceandlyda.com.au. **3.** 'Butterfly' **handle**, €27, Superfront, superfront.com. **4.** Muuto 'Leaf' **table lamp**, $300, Living Edge, livingedge.com.au. **5.** Metal ant **ornament**, $29.95, Zara Home, zarahome.com. **6. & 7.** Mooi 'Tudor' **buffet**, $7870, and 'Nest' **armchair**, $3030, Space Furniture, spacefurniture.com.au. **8.** Serax 'Flat' iron wire **plate**, $131.95, Beautiful Spaces Inside & Out, beautiful-spaces.com.au. **9.** Wrong For Hay 'Tree Trunk' **vase**, from $117, Cult, cultdesign.com.au. **10.** 'Woodland' **folding screen**, $1495, Seletti, 1300 730 244.

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LEFT: Ivy 2.5 seater **sofa**, $1,699; South Beach **cushion** in green and black, $149.95; Manhattan **cushion** in green and black, $149.95; Diamond **pendant light** in copper tone, $289.95; Ink Black One and Ink Black Two framed **prints**, $339.95 each; Marli **coffee table**, $399; Structure **bowl** in matte blue, $59.95; Art narrow **vase** in matte green, $39.95; Gatsby wire **side table** in white, set of 2, $399.95; Foundry Olive Tree and Thyme **candle**, 18oz, $64.95; Tonal bold stripes **rug**, (160x230cm), $499.

BELOW: Distrikt **armchair,** $2,599; Kew **cushion** in indigo, $39.95; Kopa **floor lamp** in white and copper tone, $279.

COLOUR SCHEME #1
WINTER BRIGHTS

Choose bold shades such as sunny yellow, brilliant blue and apple green to give warmth and a sense of playfulness, then strike a balance with a mix of fresh white, neutral tones and metallic highlights.

FRONT PAGE: Distrikt **sofa**, $3,799; Robert Gordon Glow side **plate** in gold tone (on sofa side table), $22.95 each; Waffle **throw** in grey, $99.95; Geometric web foil **cushion**, $39.95; Cloud foil **cushion**, $39.95; Wire hanging **pendant light** in copper tone, $89.95; Andros **side table** with gold-tone legs, $349; Robert Gordon Glow dinner **plate** in gold tone, $26.95 each; Paros **side table**, $279; Robert Gordon Glow **milk bottles** in gold tone, small, $19.95, large, $21.95; Palermo **tray** in stone, set of 3, $52.95; Goldie **teacups and saucers** in white, set of 2 pieces, $24.95 each; Robert Gordon Tea for Two **tea set** in copper tone (teapot shown), $49.95; Wire **hurricane candle holder** with handle in gold tone, from $39.95; Herringbone **rug** in charcoal, (160x230cm), $699; Teal cowhide **rug**, $999.

OPPOSITE PAGE: Theo **shelving** units, large, $1,799, medium, $899; (on large shelves, from top to bottom) Canvas **planter** in small, $9.95; Foundry **candles**, from $49.95 each; Bonjour framed **print**, $54.95; Marble I **print** in black, $269; (on medium shelves, from top to bottom) Cement round **planter** in white wash, $19.95; **Frame** with black inner edge, $21.95; Happy wide **frame** with black edge, $14.95; Concrete stripe **planter** in black, $19.95; Jagger **pot** (on floor), small, $39.95; Singer **desk**, $1,399; Media **table lamp** in white, $229.95; Art Hive **vase** in matte yellow, $45; Theo shell **dining chair,** $699; Hand-dyed trellis **rug** in indigo and ivory, (160x230cm), $599.

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ABOVE: (on shelves, from top to bottom) Pacific Specimen Poisson **sea creature** on stand in blue, $109.95; Chambord 1.3 litre **teapot** in copper tone, $99.95, and 8-cup **coffee maker** in copper tone, $69.95; Barista **espresso cups** in slate, $4.95 each, and **latte cups** in white, $6.95 each; Melamine shallow **bowls** in white, $34.95 each; Melamine **bowls** in grey, small, $9.95 each; Porcelain **soup bowls** with marble-look finish, $9.95 each; Corail **specimen** on stand, $159.95; Chambord Classic **storage jar** in copper tone, $49.95; Melamine **tumblers** in white, $5.95 each; Melamine water **jug** in grey, $29.95; Geo **candle holders** in gold tone, from $9.95 each; Robert Gordon 2-tier **cake stand** in copper tone, $69.95; Robert Gordon **shopping basket** in copper tone, small, $34.95; Relax **bowl** in soft blue, large, $24.95; Melamine water **jug** in white, $29.95; Theo **side table**, $699; Metric **table lamp** in black, $149; Geometrics **rug** in silver, (160x230cm), $799.

RIGHT: Enya extension **dining table**, $2,999; Nissen **dining chairs** in black and white, $149 each; Napier **stools**, $299 each; S&P Fromage **bread paddle**, $99.95; Salut white **wine glasses**, set of 6, $39.95; Marble-look **plates,** side plate, $7.95 each, dinner plate, $9.95 each, 12-piece dinner set, $119.95; Drop **bottle** in petrol blue, large, $59; Host 16-piece **cutlery set**, $199.95; Twist **napkins** in indigo, set of 4, $44.95; Arlon **pendant light** with marble finish, large, $319.95.


COLOUR SCHEME #2
CAPE COD
Choose muted colours that call to mind the Cape Cod coastline – inky blue, khaki green, earthy tones and shades of grey – and pair with burnished metallic accents in black and copper for a sophisticated look.
A TABLE THAT CAN EXTEND TO FIT MORE PEOPLE FOR A FUN DINNER PARTY IS A SMALL SPACE MUST-HAVE.
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ABOVE: Polo **bed frame** with **bedhead** upholstered in Abbotsford fabric and 4 storage drawers, queen, $1,799; Maison **quilt cover** in dove-grey, queen, $199; Maison **pillowcase** in dove-grey, $29.95 each; Maison **sheet set*** (including pillowcase on bottom pillow) in natural, queen, $329; Orton Parrot **cushion**, $29.95; Jersey velvet **cushion** in dove grey, $39.95; Orton Feather **cushion**, $29.95; Big Diamond **cushion** in lilac, $49.95; Diamond print **throw** in metallic copper, $99.95; Naxos marble and copper **side table**, $349; Melamine **tumbler** (used as a vase) in grey, $5.95; Kali **bowl**, $12.95; Foundry Bergamot and Mahogany **candle**, 12oz, $49.95; Stella **pendant lights** with copper finish, $179 each.

RIGHT: Elvie **hall table/desk**, $1,399; Happy framed **print**, $59.95; Cross framed **print**, $54.95; Foundry Bergamot and Mahogany **candle**, 18oz, $64.95; Spotty **desk light** in mint, $59; Windsor **chair** in mint, $99; Mesh **bin** in mint, $24.95; Enya two-drawer **display case**, $2,499; (on shelves, from top to bottom) Tyler **pot** in mint, $34.95; Bonnie **planter** in white, $34.95; Provisions Violet Macaroon **candle**, $32.95; Bonnie **planter** in lilac, $34.95; Provisions Salted Caramel **candle**, $32.95; Tyler **pot** in mint, $34.95; Charlton wrought-iron **clothes rack**, $419; Zaragoza **throw** in dove-grey, $98; Aura double-dip **throw** in coral and pink, $179.95; Patch cowhide **rug**, (160x230cm), $999.

Mattress sold separately. *Queen sheet set consists of 1x fitted sheet, 1x flat sheet and 2x standard pillowcases.

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Open for Inspection

step inside this home!

ROOMS WITH A VIEW

KEEPING IT IN THE FAMILY HELPED A COUPLE DOWNSIZE INTO THEIR DREAM BEACH HOUSE

WORDS **MELISSA FIELD** STYLING **MARIA DYONIZIAK** PHOTOGRAPHY **SIMON WHITBREAD**

TRAY, WALKER & BECK, (02) 9973 3307. CHAIRS, WEST ELM, WESTELM.COM.AU

For some renovators, engaging an architect son and a builder son-in-law on a major project could be asking for trouble. Not so for Chesne and John Raymond. The couple contracted their nearest and dearest to transform a tired clinker-brick three bedder into a chic and practical Australian beach house – and no-one fell out. Not even when Chesne and John moved in with their daughter Sarah – who's married to builder Mike – for two months during construction. "This build has been a real family affair – and we're all still talking!" says Chesne.

Living in nearby Mona Vale for 35 years, Chesne and John had just begun to think about downsizing when Chesne spotted the house while out walking with Sarah. Upon inspection, she was captivated by the panoramic Pittwater view. "I'd always wanted a house with a view." says Chesne. "The sight of spinnakers bobbing on the water, the sunset to the west and the seaplanes taking off and landing sold the house to me in an instant."

Thanks to the familial link, architect Dan had a clear idea of what his parents wanted. "Mum's a fantastic cook so it was about maximising a larger living and entertaining space." The home now comprises a split-level living space that includes the master bedroom and bathroom on the upper level, with the kitchen, lounge and deck on the lower level, as well as two guest bedrooms and a bathroom. "It's a house that's manageable for us but that can also work well when we entertain – we had 80 guests here recently for Chesne's 60th birthday party - or have the grandkids over," says John.

The eight-month renovation was no mere cosmetic upgrade; it was more of a knock-down rebuild in scope. "We retained the existing floor structure and the two side walls, but we removed the roof and put in a new raked ceiling and trussed gable roof," says Dan. "We installed an awning over the verandah and a small plunge pool. Inside, we added a second pavilion that bridged the access from the garage into the house and down the staircase that leads to the master bedroom level."

A key decision was to eschew aluminium doors and windows in favour of solid hardwood. "People think aluminium is a low maintenance option and in the short term it is but, in the long term, timber lasts," says Dan. "It was vital for the home's character to go with the warmth of natural timber." John adds that while the wooden floor was "a lot more expensive, I've been persuaded that it's been worth the investment". American white oak flooring throughout the home adds warmth and flow to the space.

Twelve months on, Chesne and John say they couldn't be happier with what they – as a family – have achieved. "We're thrilled with the result," says Chesne. "It's a family home but it's also great for John and me – and that view doesn't get any less breathtaking." 10

For more on Dan's work, visit danielraymond.co. To contact Michael Steedman Constructions, email michaelsteedmanconstructions@live.com.au.





cheat sheet

Who lives here: Chesne Raymond, 60, a nurse and her husband, John, 62, owner of a landscaping company. The couple's three children Dan, Sarah and Emma and four grandchildren are regular visitors.

Style of house: A polished beach house in Palm Beach, New South Wales, that draws on local coastal heritage designs with a refined Hamptons feel.

It took eight months to renovate and revive this once-tired clinker-brick coastal home.

VIEW (opposite) The enviable view from the living area verandah that first captured Chesne's attention. **EXTERIOR** Chesne and John's home features a new roof, clad in Colorbond steel in Windspray. The exterior is in Dulux Grey Pebble. "It's the same colour as our old house," says Chesne. "It also meets council approval."

PAINT COLOUR MAY VARY ON APPLICATION





"It's a house that's manageable for us but that can also work well when we entertain" JOHN RAYMOND, HOMEOWNER

CHOPPING BOARD, CRAIGS MANCHESTER OUTLET. CRAIGSMANCHESTEROUTLET.COM.AU. STOOLS, THONET. THONET.COM.AU



star performer

Replacing the old roof with a trussed gable roof and a raked ceiling has not only given John and Chesne's home a sense of height and airy space, but also texture with the timber panelling linking to the American white oak floors.

LOUNGE (opposite, left) Middleton Design created this cabinet. **PORTRAIT (opposite, right)** Architect Dan with the owners, his parents Chesne and John. **KITCHEN** Marble benchtops, an Alfresco Emporium table and West Elm chairs form an elegant space.

lessons learnt

"THE BIGGEST LESSON WAS KEEPING AN OPEN MIND AND TRUSTING THE EXPERTS"
CHESNE RAYMOND, HOMEOWNER

"Sometimes, I'd be on site and not be sure about a feature the lights in the lounge ceiling bays or the black chimney flue for example. Taking the time to live with it and trusting my architect and builder ultimately led to appreciation. Now, I love how the bays are lit up at night, and it was definitely the right decision to make a feature of the flue. Someone said to us if you want a quick build, move in with your builder, so we did! Poor Mike had us at his dinner table every night for two months, but we didn't go to the site too much unless he said we needed to. It was all about letting the young ones run with the job."



BEDROOM 'Abbotson' bedlinen from Sheridan gives this space its refined yet relaxing feel. A 'Haden' throw, 'Branay' cushion and towels in the ensuite, also from Sheridan, finish the look. **POOL (opposite)** The inclusion of the plunge pool was decided upon during construction. "We're so glad we built it," says Chesne. "The grandkids love it."



paint match

"People often knock on the door wanting to know what colour the house is," says Chesne. 'Weathershield' low sheen exterior paint in Grey Pebble, $89.95/4L, Dulux, dulux.com.au.

'OPPOSITE: 'ABBOTSON' QUEEN QUILT COVER, STANDARD PILLOWCASE PAIR, TAILORED PILLOWCASE PAIR AND TAILORED EUROPEAN PILLOWCASES; 'HADEN' THROW; 'BRANAY' CUSHION; 'LUXURY RETREAT' BATH AND HAND TOWELS; AND 'STEVIE' BATH AND HAND TOWELS, ALL SHERIDAN, SHERIDAN.COM.AU. BOWL AND LASSI CUP, MANYARA HOME, MANYARAHOME.COM.AU. THIS PAGE: STOOL, WEST ELM, WESTELM.COM.AU. 'STEVIE' BATH TOWELS, SHERIDAN, AS BEFORE. CHAIR, YUCCA AND BASKET, ALL FLOWER POWER, FLOWERPOWER.COM.AU. PAINT COLOUR MAY VARY ON APPLICATION





BEDROOM (left) A calming bed of blue, dressed in 'Reilly' bedlinen and an 'Abel' star cushion from Sheridan, is at the heart of this space. **ENSUITE** Astra Walker taps and a Victoria + Albert 'York' bath were sourced at WC Bath + Shower. Extra pampering touches are the 'Beach Escape' hand wash and hand lotion from Sheridan. The bath mat is also from Sheridan.

how to add texture

Jo Jaggs, general manager of design at Sheridan, gives us her tips on bringing texture to three key zones.

Living area Creating style moments throughout your home is easy using a mix of cushions and throws. Look for soft weaves, textured linen and woollen knits. And don't forget about the details pattern, stitching and trims will add another level of interest.

Bathroom Beautifully textural towels will bring a luxe feel to soften the hard surfaces of a wet zone. Create a contemporary look with a feature bath mat and a few different coloured towels for contrast.

Bedroom Layer it up with luxe linen sheets and quilts, chunky knit throws and cushions, which feel great and up the cosy factor for a bed you want to dive into.

Open for Inspection

COME ON IN! Thanks to Sheridan, you can take a video tour of this elegant home. Our editor-in-chief Claire and resident interior architect Shannon Vos will be your guides. Visit insideout.com.au to see the video.



3 GREAT FINDS

1 Round **bar stool**, from $260, Thonet, thonet.com.au.



2 'Factory' **lamp**, $699, HK Living Australia, hkliving.com.au.



3 'Drake' metal leg dining **table**, $3220, GlobeWest, globewest.com.au.

on the surface



'Liverpool White' subway **tile**, $89/sqm, Tile MegaMart, tilemegamart.com.au.

400mm x 800mm 'Stones' calacatta marble **tile**, $95/sqm, Di Lorenzo Tiles, dilorenzo.com.au.

Premium Oak 'Stained European Oak' wide plank **flooring** in Sierra, $80/sqm, Premium Floors, premium floors.com.au/find-a-dealer.

LEFT: 'REILLY' JUNIOR QUILTED BEDCOVER, SINGLE SHEET SET AND EUROPEAN PILLOWCASE; AND 'ABEL' STAR CUSHION, ALL SHERIDAN, SHERIDAN.COM.AU. TOY HORSES AND GARLAND, THE SNUG, @THE_SNUG_NB ON INSTAGRAM. RIGHT: 'BEACH ESCAPE' HAND WASH AND HAND LOTION, AND 'LUXURY RETREAT' HAND TOWEL, ALL SHERIDAN, AS BEFORE. ADDITIONAL PRODUCT SOURCING: DANIELLE SELIG


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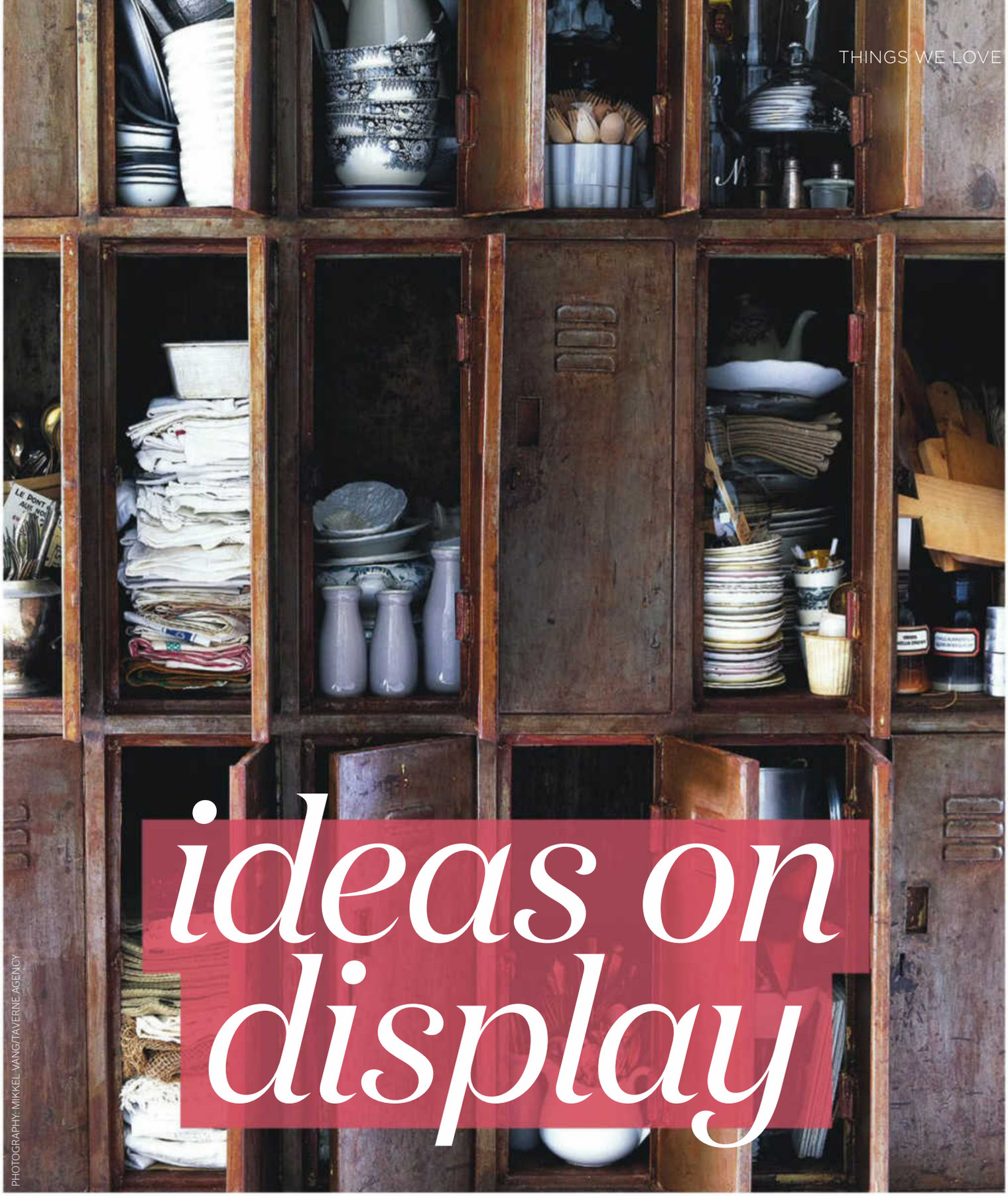


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PHOTOGRAPHY: MIKKEL VANG/TAVERNE AGENCY

ideas on display

Your favourite homewares store can be a rich source of inspiring display ideas. In *The Shopkeeper's Home*, retailers share their kitchen spaces, along with vignette secrets you can use at home WORDS **CAROLINE ROWLAND**



rainbow connection Use colour to tie your collection together. Group items of similar shades together for a coherent display.

PHOTOGRAPHY: JACQUI SMALL LLP/JANIS NICOLAY

Stepping inside a beautiful shop can set the heart aflutter as you anticipate what you might find, followed by the lovely buzz of retail therapy. But it's also a chance to gather style inspiration as you explore each and every corner. The way the proprietors have utilised a converted space, their choice of flooring and wall-coverings, and the clever solutions for displaying their wares, are all great ideas that can be gathered and applied to your own home. This is precisely what Caroline Rowland explores in her new book, *The Shopkeeper's Home* ($49.99, Jacqui Small). In this extract, you can see how curators, whose style credentials shine from their shelves, translate this talent for decor into their personal spaces.

INDUSTRIAL CHIC

This kitchen belongs to Michael Andrews of homewares store Inheritance in Los Angeles (inheritanceshop.com). Originally a set dresser and prop stylist, Michael began working at LA-based shop Zelen while he was a freelancer. When the owner, Dan Zelen, decided to move to San Francisco in 2009, Michael took over the reins. Michael continued to build on Dan's eclectic taste, but at the same time developed his own approach to curating the store, and after feeling that it had become 'his' shop, he changed the name to Inheritance. The centrepiece in his kitchen is the



sitting pretty Wall-mounted shelving, glass-fronted cabinets, sideboards, dressers and trolleys, both industrial and retro, are all great pieces for displaying objects.

large island (above), a repurposed retail shop display unit. As well as creating a large worktop for preparing meals, it also holds cookbooks and magazines in the drawers.

Michael groups his collections of Fornasetti china together for maximum impact. The quirky plate designs make a strong display in a grid formation in his kitchen. Items that aren't typically fixed to walls can turn out to make a unique display that that could easily be adapted for a home setting. Plates, rugs, stuffed animals and birds, even vintage sports equipment are all examples of three-dimensional elements you can try adding to your walls.

10 great display ideas

Good display will add a special something to a treasured collection. Think about ways to bring out the best in what you're putting on show. Use impact, colour, repetition, or play with height to create the desired effect. Above all, have fun!

1. Pegboards are a versatile way of displaying utility items.
2. Glass-fronted cupboards are ideal for displaying treasured kitchenalia.
3. Group mirrors to reflect light in a living space.
4. Lean paintings against a wall to make an informal art installation.
5. Use differing heights and widths to create a vignette.
6. A grid formation is perfect for items of identical shape and size.
7. Glass cloches are great for showcasing and protecting your most cherished items.
8. Use pegs to display cute kids' clothes.
9. Line wooden boxes with colourful wallpaper for a handmade look.
10. Use a suitcase propped open to display its wares.



hot wheels Wooden or metal ex-factory trolleys are great for storing items that need to be moved around or be easily accessible.



shop up style

Decorating ideas to take home with you from lifestyle stores

- Create atmosphere by zoning your living space into areas of interest divided by freestanding, open display units to showcase treasured possessions.
- Keep walls and floors pared back so you can experiment with texture and colour on furniture. Let the objects do the talking.
- Use repurposed furniture or renovate individual pieces yourself – use old crates or reclaimed wooden shelving to 'exhibit' your favourite items.

CLASSIC CHARM

Co-owner of Oakland, California-based store Atomic Garden (atomic gardenoakland.com), Jamie Kidson lives in a craftsman-style home built by architect Walter Ratcliff in 1910. Her wood-clad home has almost all of its original features, which Jamie has worked tirelessly to repair. She has also introduced retro furniture that blends well with the 'arts and crafts' aesthetic. She tried to ensure that the newly installed kitchen and bathroom appeared as if they had always been there, choosing styles and colour palettes that blend seamlessly with the character of the building.

Jamie's kitchen has a functional yet classical authenticity, which is fitting for a home of this style. She keeps clutter to a minimum and has introduced storage solutions such as wall-mounted knife holders and a traditional larder for easy accessibility.

Jamie has an ingenious idea in her kitchen: shelving with shutters that can be opened up to the dining room, making the two rooms feel open-plan when needed, and separate at other times. She also has cupboards above and below for tidying away unattractive kitchenware. Shelving above the window is good for utilising dead space.

PHOTOGRAPHY: JACQUI SMALL LLP/JANIS NICOLAY



clear view Homeowner Jamie prefers an uncluttered environment with only useful or treasured items around her.



keeping it simple
A tongue-and-groove wall and open shelving, holding white china and glassware, are fresh and timeless.

WHITE & BRIGHT

The home of Claudia Zinzan and Nick Hutchinson of New Zealand homewares store Father Rabbit (fatherrabbit.com), incorporates a more relaxed level of precision and order than their shop, but displays the same sense of minimalistic comfort. Their approach to styling the store is to give their products lots of display space, and this technique also works well at home. The house is testament to the fact that you can make a beautiful home on a budget. Nick used his DIY skills to make furniture, such as the kitchen island with a stainless-steel top and MDF shelving. Claudia was in charge of sourcing accessories and, as well as using some of their own product range, she found items from salvage yards and internet auction sites. 10



This is an edited extract of *The Shopkeeper's Home: The World's Best Independent Retailers And Their Stylish Homes* by Caroline Rowland ($49.99, Jacqui Small).

PHOTOGRAPHY: DUNCAN INNES/HOMESTYLE MAGAZINE

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Whether it's a plush sofa or sheer curtain, materials matter. Pick the right textile for your project with this guide

fabric *of* life





STYLING ASSISTANCE: ROSIE MEEHAN



warm & vibrant

WORDS **FIONA JOY** STYLING **IMOGENE ROACHE** PHOTOGRAPHY **SAM McADAM-COOPER**

Nothing adds personality quite like the fabrics you choose for your home. From the window-dressings to the sofa and all manner of soft accessories, fabric is the perfect way to set the mood and update, depending on the season or your state of mind. But while you're effecting change without knocking down walls, that doesn't mean it's a cheap option; you can expect to pay a pretty price for quality textiles, so make sure your choices will work with your lifestyle. Before you buy, things to consider include who will be using the room and how; how much sunlight it receives; maintenance; and how much money you want to spend.

At a basic level, fabrics can be divided into two groups: natural and man-made. Natural fibres come from animals and plants; synthetic fibres come from inorganic materials and chemicals, and there are some options that have a foot in both camps.

the naturals

COTTON Cotton is a fluffy fibre that grows in a 'boll' around the seeds of the cotton plant in tropical and subtropical areas. (There are about 1250 cotton farms in Australia.) Cotton is a strong, versatile natural fibre that can be dyed, so colour choices are endless. The weave allows for the flow of air, meaning it breathes well, so it's great in a warm climate. The range of weights and textures within the cotton family is mind-boggling: calico, jacquard, corduroy, denim, moleskin, flannel, sateen, chenille and velvet are just a few.
Best for Upholstered seating, everyday cushions; informal window treatments.
Lifestyle Durable; easy to care for and clean; great choice for families.
WOOL Wool is shorn from sheep, goats and alpaca. Wool fibres are naturally crimped, which traps the air, making it warm and cosy. Wool is the most durable of all the natural fabrics and will last you a lifetime and beyond, but can be quite rough to the touch.
Best for Carpets and rugs. Mohair adds a special detail to a throw or statement cushion.
Lifestyle The price of wool upholstery knocks it off many lists, but aside from that, it attracts moths. For upholstery, wool blends are a better bet because they can be spot-cleaned.
LINEN Made from the flax plant, linen is a cool, tough, crisp fabric that's known for its antifungal and antibacterial properties. Small knots known as 'slubs' can occur randomly. Traditionally considered defects, slubs are now often seen as part of the overall aesthetic appeal. Linen creases easily but quickly becomes soft with further use.
Best for Tablecloths and napery; casual window treatments.
Lifestyle With a breezy feel, linen is naturally prone to wrinkles so a good option if casual elegance is your thing (or you enjoy ironing!).
SILK Silk is made from the cocoons of silkworms, which literally spin their own graves. The manufacturing process for silk is fiddly and laborious and that's reflected in the price tag. The good news is its production has a lower impact on the environment than many other fabrics. With myriad colour and pattern options, the end product can be light and sheer or heavy and raw, with various stages in between. Generally speaking, the heavier the weave the more wear it's able to take. Despite its dainty reputation, silk is typically hard-wearing, long-lasting and feels cool to the touch.
Best for Window treatments, upholstery, rugs, luxe cushions and pillows.
Lifestyle Silk is best used out of direct sunlight where it can be susceptible to 'sun rot'. It also doesn't recover well from spills, so it is best left in a low-traffic zone.

the synthetics

RAYON is made from wood chip fibres and mimics silk, cotton or linen at a fraction of the price. It hangs well so is a popular choice for curtains but shrinks and wrinkles in the damp. **NYLON** is rarely used alone but blended with other textiles to add resilience. **POLYESTER** is tough and a good choice for outdoor furniture, as it tolerates sunlight and moisture well. **MICROFIBRE AND MICROSUEDE** are made from polyester and can be great for high-traffic sofas, such as in kids' rooms, because they're soft, forgiving and water-repellent. **ACRYLIC** gives a wool-like feel, and high-quality acrylics can be quite convincing. It's inexpensive, won't fade and comes in a whole heap of colours, patterns and textures. It's often blended with natural fibres to increase durability. **OLEFIN** is a newish kid on the upholstery block and it's an option if you need something extremely hard-wearing. It's highly stain- and moisture-resistant, so perfect for the patio. And another positive trait, it's easily recyclable.

PAGE 64 Designers Guild 'Padua' linen in Peony, $314/m, Radford Furnishings, radford furnishings.com. **Marimekko 'Ararat' cotton/linen**, $85/m, Chee Soon & Fitzgerald, chee soonfitzgerald.com. **PAGE 65 Fabrics, from left: 'Lumiere Magenta' acrylic**, $83.60/m, Warwick Fabrics, warwick.com.au. **Dominique Kieffer by Rubelli 'Reloaded' jacquard in Rose**, $275/m, South Pacific Fabrics, southpacificfabrics.com. **Designers Guild 'Savine' linen in Indigo**, $686/m, Radford Furnishings, as before. 'Clip Clip' **holder**, from $12, Hay Sydney, hayshop.com.au. **On hanging rail: Edit 'Vases' linen/cotton**, $182/m, Tigger Hall Design, tiggerhall.com. Un Esprit En Plus France **hanging rail**, $149, Blanc-Leger, blanc-leger.com. **On stand: Hobbs & Co 'Iron Butterfly' linen/cotton**, $125/m, Tigger Hall Design, as before. **Gaston Y Daniela 'Javier GDT 5188-004' cotton**, POA, Domestic Textile Corporation, domestictextile.com.au. **Designer 'Ikat Spot' cotton in Pink**, $89/m, No Chintz, nochintz.com. Hay 'Loop' **stand**, $527, Cult, cultdesign.com.au. **'Akari Orchid' cotton** (on floor), $61.60/m, Warwick Fabrics, as before. Background in 'Ombre Multi Horizon' texture paper back vinyl **wallpaper**, $260/2.8m x 1.25m panel, Emily Ziz Style Studio, emilyziz.com. **THIS PAGE Jab Anstoetz 'Swirl' polyester**, POA, Seneca Textiles, (02) 9362 3044.

OPPOSITE Fabrics, from left: Lisa Bengtsson 'Cleo' linen/cotton, $110/m, Chee Soon & Fitzgerald, as before. **Liberty Art Fabrics 'Mae Tree' linen in Clementine**, $252/m, Radford Furnishings, as before. **Lisa Bengtsson 'Disco' linen/cotton**, $110/m, Chee Soon & Fitzgerald, as before. **Pepe Peñalver 'Jungle' cotton**, POA, Elliott Clarke & Co, elliottclarke.com.au. **Jab Anstoetz 'Swirl' polyester**, POA, Seneca Textiles, as before. **Colony 'Brina' linen in Verde**, $320/m, Boyac, boyac.com.au. Background in 'Ombre Multi Slush' texture paper back vinyl **wallpaper**, $260/2.8m x 1.25m panel, Emily Ziz Style Studio, as before.


lush
botanicals

monochromatic

how to buy fabric

Cameron Warwick from Warwick Fabrics offers his advice

How do I choose my fabric? Start your research online to gather together some ideas of what patterns, colours and textures are available and what might work in your home. Next, you can order cutting samples to be sent out to you directly – for our fabrics, you can do that via our website. For extra inspiration you could check out your favourite blogs, Pinterest and Instagram. Next step would be to find a good upholsterer, designer or retailer to work with you on your project.

So I've narrowed it down – what's next? If you're feeling a little overwhelmed by online searches, or want to see the fabrics you have selected in a larger piece, head to a showroom for a better look. Not all showrooms are open to the public, however. Wholesalers, like us, do not sell direct to the public, so you'll need to speak to a trader who has an account with us.

How do I buy the one I've chosen? Once you've decided on an upholsterer, interior designer, decorator or retailer, you can liaise with them on the fabric selection and get their advice on your ideas. Then that person will buy the fabric on your behalf. Or if you're buying a new sofa for example, the furniture retailer will arrange the upholstery in your chosen fabric.

What if I want to DIY? If you're doing your own re-upholstery or making your own curtains, there are a number of retailers who sell a range of fabrics direct to the public. Just be aware that you may end up spending a little more, as they will naturally add a mark-up to the wholesale price. *For more details on Warwick Fabrics, visit warwick.com.au.* 10

Fabrics, from left: 'Nirvana Slate' polyester, $61.60/m, Warwick Fabrics, warwick.com.au. **Jab Anstoetz 'Joelle' polyester**, POA, Seneca Textiles, (02) 9362 3044. **'Mystere Ebony' polyester**, $50.60/m, Warwick Fabrics, as before. **Larsen 'Infinity' linen in Black**, POA, Domus Textiles, (02) 9380 6577. **'Crayola Scribbles' polyester upholstery fabric in Brush Reverse Ink**, $98/m, Emily Ziz Style Studio, emilyziz.com.au. **Lorca 'Coquine' viscose/cotton**, POA, Seneca Textiles, as before. **'Larissa Ivory' polyester**, $121/m, and **'Cato Nero' polyester**, $61.60/m, Warwick Fabrics, as before. Ferm Living **clothes rack**, $269, Designstuff, designstuff.com.au. Background in 'Ombre Smoke' texture paper back vinyl **wallpaper**, $260/2.8m x 1.25m panel, Emily Ziz Style Studio, as before.



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inside



fitting in
Adapt a cooking zone to suit your everyday life

Before you make plans to overhaul your existing kitchen, it's worth considering the space as it is and what actually works. The owners of this Sydney home had a wood-fired oven in the brick cavity – the cavity was fine but the oven didn't suit. They've since replaced it with an AGA cooker, which matches the zone's charming feel. It also means there's room for bench space and storage to take up an entire wall. For more of this refined family home, turn the page.

PHOTOGRAPHY: ANNABELLE HICKSON. STYLING: MEGAN MORTON



KITCHEN "I have aspirations to become a very good cook, but I'm not there yet," says owner Fiona. "This kitchen inspires me to keep on trying. I wanted the space to cook big dinners – with a family of six to feed, that's essential."



CHEAT SHEET

Who lives here: Interior designer Fiona Bateman, 35; her husband, Henry, 39, a business manager; their kids Freya, 9; Edward, 6; George, 4; and Rupert, 7 months; plus border terrier Minnie.

Style of house: A four-bedroom two-storey Edwardian house in Sydney's Neutral Bay, which was built in 1893.

The renovation took seven months to complete.

CLASSIC CHIC

This Edwardian beauty's period charm perfectly complements the modern lifestyle of a family of six

WORDS **MELISSA FIELD** STYLING **MEGAN MORTON** PHOTOGRAPHY **ANNABELLE HICKSON**





FAMILY ROOM (left) Polished concrete flooring in the extension is a practical solution with Fiona and Henry's four children. The custom-made bookcase incorporates the children's desks. **KITCHEN (below)** A four-door AGA cooker now stands where the original wood-fired stove once did.

Despite loving their stylish and beautifully realised home, a two-bedroom cottage wasn't going to cut it space-wise for this family of five. Add in a desire for another child and it's definitely time to hit up the open for inspections. That's the scenario Fiona Bateman faced back in early 2013.

Already fans of Sydney's Neutral Bay neighbourhood, Fiona and her husband, Henry, were keen to upsize in the same postcode. An intrepid Fiona contacted local agents to see if there were any gems about to come onto the market. Fortuitously, one agent knew of an elderly couple who were thinking about selling their much-loved Edwardian home in which they'd raised their six children. Fiona was familiar with the beautiful period house in need of some attention. "The previous owners didn't want to go through all the hassle of an open home so we were very lucky to snare this place," she says.

Fiona, Henry and the kids moved around the corner and into their new home in December 2013. They engaged Sam Crawford Architects to draw up plans for the much-needed renovation, which Fiona was determined to keep simple. "We decided to keep the structural work to a minimum," she says. "We didn't move anything around in terms of the rooms.



DINING ROOM Beneath the pendant light from Magins sits a table from Original Finish, Thonet chairs, and a rug from Revival in Milton on NSW's South Coast. Linen gauze drapes were made up by Simple Studio, allowing light to hit the walls in Resene Foggy Grey.

STAR PERFORMER

Retaining period features, including the archway and fireplace in the dining room, not only celebrates the home's Edwardian roots but also lends instant character and a sense of history to this family home.

PAINT COLOUR MAY VARY ON APPLICATION





I didn't want it to be too open plan because that doesn't suit the style of the home. Ultimately, I saw this as a restoration rather than a renovation."

Respecting the home's history was critical to the Batemans, as was their desire to allow as much natural light as possible into the house. The rear extension, accommodating the family room and new kitchen, delivered with the addition of a wall of custom steel-framed windows. "I'd seen something similar in another home and loved the light-drenched effect. They're probably one of my favourite features in the house now," says Fiona. The home's light feel is also aided by its simple paint palette – Dulux White Duck is used in varying strengths to add tone throughout.

In terms of the decor, Fiona led the way. "I love old things but, just because it's a period home, I didn't want everything to be old and in keeping," she says. "My daughter has said to me 'Mum, why do you like everything to be ruined?', but I don't think that's completely fair. I like to mix the traditional with the modern."

Fiona and Henry's beloved modern artworks, including a Brett Whiteley drawing in the hallway and a vibrant collection of indigenous artworks that feature throughout the space, showcase their diverse style and personalises the rooms.

Fiona says a particular highlight during the build was when the bespoke kitchen was installed complete with an AGA cooker and statement Dunlin pendant lighting. "It was exactly how I'd imagined it," she says.

The Batemans moved out for the duration of the reno with Fiona juggling the project, her successful design consultancy and, yes, that fourth pregnancy off site. "The fantastic builders [Buildability Constructions] just got in there and ripped into it," she says. "Our architect and builder were brilliant, and we had the DA plans approved within 60 days. The next-door neighbours were very understanding and encouraging, so we were lucky that it was a relatively smooth process."

The family have just passed their first year in the completed home and couldn't be happier. "It's everything we wanted," says Fiona. "I still sometimes pinch myself when I'm putting my key in the front door to make sure this is my home." She says the family plan on staying put for some time. "With four children, you can always do with more space, but I can't see us leaving anytime soon. It would have to be something very special to tempt us away." 10

For more on Sam Crawford Architects, visit samcrawfordarchitects.com.au. To check out Buildability Constructions, visit buildability.com.au.

ARTWORK: (HALLWAY) LESLIE WILKINSON, GABRIELLE COLLINS, BELINDA BATEMAN, GLADYS OWEN, LAURA JONES, BRETT WHITELEY. NUDE BY ROBERT MALHERBE



SITTING ROOM (opposite, right and below) An embroidered Suzani textile hangs above cushions from Walter G. Antique reupholstered French armchairs and linen-covered sofas from The Country Trader sit around the I&B Perryman rug. **HALLWAY (opposite, left)** Treasured artworks hang by the front door.

TIMELINE

2013

June The home isn't on the market, however Fiona, who lives nearby with her family, proposes a sale.
August The sale for the house goes through.

December The Batemans move in. "It had barely been touched and was very well loved. The home was still almost entirely in its original condition," says Fiona.

2014

January Proof the home needs major TLC comes when the sewers burst twice before the renos. "Yes, it was as gross as it sounds," shudders Fiona.

June The renovation commences and the family moves out during the work, which takes seven months to complete.

2015

February With the renovation finished, the Batemans move back in.

FAMILY ROOM Occupying the light-filled zone is a Gueridon table from Space Furniture, timber stools from Scout House and a cane sofa from Revival. **FREYA'S BEDROOM (opposite)** The beautiful wrought-iron bed belonged to Henry when he was a child, while the hand-printed wallpaper is by celebrated British designer Marthe Armitage.



"THIS IS WHERE WE ALL SIT FOR BREAKFAST. I JUST LOVE BEING ABLE TO LOOK OUT ONTO THE COURTYARD GARDEN FROM HERE"



BRIGHT IDEA

Hand-blocked wallpaper from Marthe Armitage's 'Jungle Birds' series brings a touch of nature-inspired whimsy to Freya's room, while the tones of the delicate print match the neutral palette used in the remainder of the home.

LAUNDRY (left) This standalone area has the same benchtop, tapware and sink as the kitchen. **ENSUITE (right)** The bath is matched by a classic checkerboard tile floor. **MASTER BEDROOM (opposite)** The period archway is mirrored in the dining room, and JAB linen drapes are from Seneca.

3 GREAT FINDS

1



'Chelsea' **wall light**, $698, Dunlin, dunlin.com.au.

2



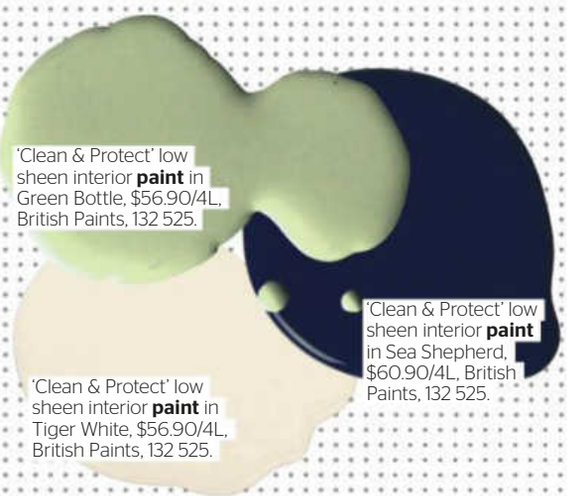
Perrin & Rowe **cabinet knobs**, from $19 each, The English Tapware Company, 1300 016 181.

3



'Savedal' **door**, $40, IKEA, ikea.com/au.

PAINT PALETTE



'Clean & Protect' low sheen interior **paint** in Green Bottle, $56.90/4L, British Paints, 132 525.

'Clean & Protect' low sheen interior **paint** in Sea Shepherd, $60.90/4L, British Paints, 132 525.

'Clean & Protect' low sheen interior **paint** in Tiger White, $56.90/4L, British Paints, 132 525.

ADDITIONAL PRODUCT SOURCING: DANIELLE SELLIG. PAINT COLOUR MAY VARY ON APPLICATION. ARTWORK (OPPOSITE) JENNIFER TYERS



1. Entry
2. Study
3. Laundry
4. WC
5. Family room
6. Kitchen
7. Dining room
8. Sitting room
9. Bedroom
10. Bedroom
11. Bathroom
12. Bedroom
13. Master bedroom
14. WIR and ensuite

LESSONS LEARNT

"GO WITH A GOOD ARCHITECT THEY'LL ENSURE YOU GET THE BEST DESIGN"

FIONA BATEMAN, HOMEOWNER

Best advice: "If you can hire an architect, it's well worth it. You can always buy that expensive sofa later, but you can't rectify built-in mistakes."

Design tip: "People crave open-plan living as well as tonnes of floor-to-ceiling cupboards, but I like having separate rooms and doors to differentiate the spaces. Having the bedrooms upstairs works really well for us as a family because, come the kids' bedtimes, I can ask them to go upstairs to play, go up and tuck them in, and then downstairs is for us."



make it personal

Nine ideas were key to turning this worker's cottage into an enviable family home filled with preloved style

WORDS AND STYLING **NATALIE WALTON** PHOTOGRAPHY **CHRIS WARNES/WARNES & WALTON**

ARTWORK: (TOP SHELF) GENINNE



cheat sheet

Who lives here: Peta O'Neill, owner of Love Mae (lovemae.com.au); Adrian Warlow, who works in the building industry; their daughters Lulu and Meila; plus bullmastiff, Mali.
Style of house: A '30s three-bedroom worker's cottage in Stokers Siding, NSW.
The kitchen was done in three weeks. The laundry, deck and bathroom took seven weeks.
$$$$ The renovation cost about $40k. "Let's just say Adrian worked very hard!" says Peta.

LIVING AREA (opposite) An artful display curated by owner Peta. **DECK** Peta and Adrian with their girls Meila (left) and Lulu. Overlooking the garden and hills, it's their favourite place to be. "We eat, read, sleep and enjoy it every day," says Peta.



1 establish zones within an open-plan space

"The moment we had a complete open-plan space, our lives changed," says Peta. The living zone had been a separate room but the sectional sofa and a custom The Woodsfolk rug help to create an intimate space.
Tip: Treat a corner like its own space by choosing a modular sofa and creating an artwork wall display.

2 create your own wall art

Peta studied photography and worked for a few years as a wedding photographer. This photo was for her self-portrait assignment. She printed the image about eight years ago and Adrian finished it onto a board.
Tip: Enlarging photos has never been easier and they can make great statement pieces. Keep artworks in proportion to the furniture they sit above.



3 give your cooking zone a distinctive look

Adrian built the kitchen and Peta selected a feature colour to give the space a vintage vibe. She took a teatowel that came with the 10th anniversary issue of *Inside Out* magazine to Porter's Paints and had the colour matched to create a paint for the cupboard doors.

Tip: Lend a new kitchen character by paying attention to the details, such as tradtional handles.



4

mix and match different styles

Bathrooms are functional but are also rooms to be enjoyed. Adding personalised touches not only elevates the aesthetics but also the experience of the user. Peta and Adrian have mixed and matched elements, such as vintage mirrors and traditional tapware with patterned tiles from Jatana Interiors, to showcase vintage style with a hit of personality. The tiles echo the tones of the room but also add a distinctive look.

Tip: A spider plant is well suited to the moisture and humidity of a bathroom, adding visual interest.

5

try hanging and stacking options to solve your storage dilemmas

In Peta and Adrian's bedroom, a wall-mounted rack keeps bags and hats in good shape. A pile of vintage suitcases is a novel way to store out-of-season clothes or bedlinen, allowing you to keep your wardrobe free for all your current go-to clothes, bedding and other necessities.

Tip: Add complementary luggage tags to the suitcases as reminders of what's stored inside each one.





Peta knows this wall colour off by heart Wattyl Snowdonia at three-quarter strength as she's had so many friends ask her about it. The 'Sunday Driving' cushion is from Pony Rider.

6 make an evolving photo display

Hanging Polaroid-style photos on a string is a fun way to showcase favourite pics. Using pegs allows the catalogue of photos to be changed easily. Here, Peta has entwined a string of fairy lights to give the display a magical touch come nighttime.

Tip: Try using washi tape to hang the string as it doesn't mark the way masking tape can. Tape crosses to create a more sturdy display.





7 choose easy-to-update style

Kids change their minds all the time as to what they like, so consider temporary options. Peta used removable decals from her label Love Mae and paper rosettes, which she made herself. The retro-style bedhead from The Family Love Tree can also be updated with paint.

Tip: Use spray paint to save time and effort when it comes to painting intricate furniture.

8 create an indoor jungle

"I couldn't imagine my home without plants," says Peta. "That touch of nature is a must for me." She regularly rotates the plants near the back door of the house, depending on the season. She also keeps her sick plants here, so she can keep an eye on them.

Tip: Indoor plants instantly give life to an empty spot – try placing them at different heights for an interesting look.



9

customise the kids' cubbyhouse

Building a cubbyhouse means you can create all sorts of fun features, such as a slippery slide into a sandpit. Adrian used a ladder in place of steps, and added hay bales below. Everything was salvaged or bought for next to nothing to create Lulu and Meila's castle.

Tip: Building a deck for a cubbyhouse helps to create a sense of space and openness. It's all about indoor-outdoor living – for the kids, too!



CHEAT SHEET

Who lives here: Lesley Crawford, 62, network stylist at SBS; Dennis Smith, 74, a retired set construction supervisor and art director; and their dogs Fred, a staffie, and Ginger, a staffie-kelpie cross.

Style of house: A converted warehouse in Sydney's east.

$$$$ $40k to make the building livable. "The rest we've done as we've had the money and inspiration," says Lesley.

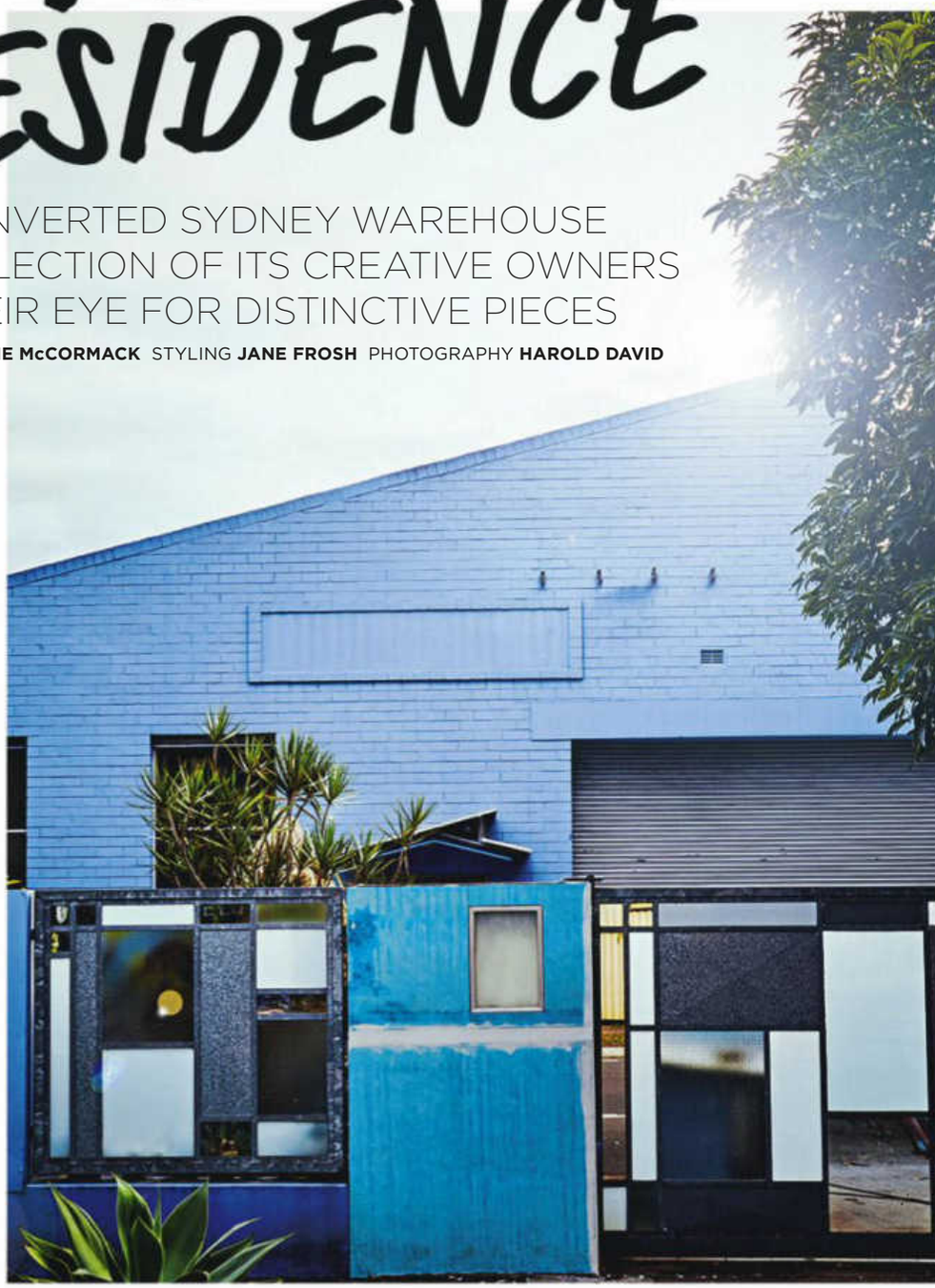


ARTWORKS: (DINING ROOM WALL, FROM LEFT) 'PRINT' BY BRUCE GOOLD. WORK MADE WITH IKEA TILES BY DENNIS. BUSHELLS MIRROR. NZ BIRDS PRINTED ON CORRUGATED IRON BY JEFF THOMSON. PAINTING FROM THE 'ALICE IN WONDERLAND' SERIES BY CHARLES BLACKMAN. PAINTING FROM THE 'PINK POODLE' SERIES BY LUKE ROBERTS.

ARTISTS' RESIDENCE

THIS CONVERTED SYDNEY WAREHOUSE IS A REFLECTION OF ITS CREATIVE OWNERS AND THEIR EYE FOR DISTINCTIVE PIECES

WORDS **CATHERINE McCORMACK** STYLING **JANE FROSH** PHOTOGRAPHY **HAROLD DAVID**



DINING AREA (opposite) Owner Dennis made the 'chandelier' using a mix of old light fittings wired into two circuits. **EXTERIOR** Owners Dennis and Lesley have their home painted a custom colour "reminiscent of the sky and the sea", says Lesley. "Dennis designed and built the fence."



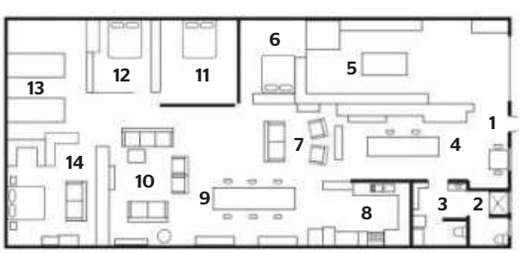


Veterans of the film and television industry, Lesley Crawford and Dennis Smith have converted this Sydney warehouse, which serves as a testament to their unyielding creativity and can-do attitude. Inside, a treasure-trove of pieces made and collected over their 26 years together tells a thousand tales – all of them wonderful.

"The house is a reflection of our lives and memories of the places we've been," says Lesley. "We don't need to change our style or consume more."

The couple bought the property – a former car spare parts business – in 1998, inspired in part by travels to New York City. "I'd dreamed of living in a warehouse ever since I saw the lofts there," says Lesley. "It wasn't a choice really and it wasn't about the fact we couldn't afford a house – I wanted the space."

In rough condition when they purchased it, the warehouse included an office, mezzanine level and makeshift kitchen. "The walls weren't plastered and there was no ceiling, either," says Dennis, who has worked on three of the *Mad Max* movies. With just 16 days between settlement and moving in, the couple harnessed all their talents to turn the space into a home. "It's pretty slapped together," says Dennis, "but you get used to working quick when you're in the film game."



1. Entry
2. Bathroom
3. Laundry/WC
4. Office
5. Workshop
6. Bedroom
7. Sitting area
8. Kitchen
9. Dining area
10. Lounge
11. Bedroom
12. Bedroom
13. Storage
14. Master bedroom

ARTWORK: (LEFT) PEACE SIGN BY LUCY EDMONDS, CORRUGATED IRON PHOTOGRAPH BY WENDY ADNAM AND A SERIES BY LUKE ROBERTS. (OPPOSITE, FROM LEFT) PAINTED COPY OF ROSEMARY LAING'S *GREENWORK AERIAL WALL* PHOTOGRAPH, BUSHELLS MIRROR, NZ BIRDS PRINTED ON CORRUGATED IRON BY JEFF THOMSON



OFFICE (opposite, left) Lesley and Dennis sit at a desk from Ken Neale Twentieth Century Modern with '50s chairs and a 'Tolomeo' lamp from Artemide. **KITCHEN (opposite, right)** A lit-up shop sign, reupholstered stools and a George Barsony lamp lend character. **LOUNGE** In this retro space is a 1930s cabinet and velvet chairs.



What do you love most about the warehouse? Dennis: "You're enclosed but there's lots of space. It has beautiful light and you can see the stars. And there are no neighbours."

You've lived and worked together for so long. Do you ever fight about the decorating? Lesley: "We sometimes argue about the details, but we appreciate similar things. There's a process."

You've described your style as 'maximalism'. What's the secret to keeping it looking sharp? Dennis: "You have to be really organised or else the clutter would be of truck-like proportions."

In a house full of charm and character, the light above the dining table is a standout. Dennis: "We walked around Sydney for two weekends looking for a chandelier that would go in that big space. The cheapest one we saw was $5500 and it consisted of stainless-steel wire with little halogen lights. I thought, 'You've got to be kidding,' so I built one and hung all the light shades we had from old houses and various other places."

The kitchen pantry is a stationery cupboard and the sink was a bedpan wash basin – where do you come up with these ideas? Dennis: "Because we've worked in the film industry as buyers and set builders, we know where to get all the really weird shit. The sink came from a second-hand hospital stainless-steel place near Jervis Bay on the NSW South Coast. It's eight-foot long, it cost $400 and we've washed all our grandchildren in it."

You have eight grandkids. Do they visit often? Lesley: "Some years we'll have Christmas here and they'll all stay. They tell us we can never sell – the space is perfect for hide-and-seek."

Any plans to move? Lesley: "Who knows what the future will bring, but while we're working in Sydney we'd never want to live anywhere else."





BATHROOM (left) "Dennis found this great waterproofing membrane that was black, so we decided rather than having it all pristine we would do a *Peanuts* Pigpen look," says Lesley. **OFFICE** This space is furnished with shelves from various film workshops. "We spray-painted everything the same colour," says Dennis. The red letter 'Y' is from the Parkroyal hotel in Sydney.

STAR PERFORMER

Lesley and Dennis's decision to preserve the warehouse, instead of transforming it into a conventional home with fixed walls, gives them the space to showcase their one-of-a-kind pieces.



3 GREAT FINDS

1



Vintage Berber **cushion**, $187, Barefoot Gypsy, barefootgypsy.com.au.

2



'Pebble' **vase** in Orange Swirl, $220, Dinosaur Designs, dinosaurdesigns.com.au.

3



Asiatides 'Pearl' **lamp** by Fabienne Jouvin, $619, Meïzai, meizai.com.au.



STYLIST JANE FROSH'S TIPS ON WAREHOUSE LIVING

+ The main issue with warehouse living is that the scale of the floorplan can leave furniture looking dwarfed, so you may need to supersize your pieces!
+ Most warehouses have track running across the ceiling, or at least beams. Drops of fabric running along these tracks can easily separate spaces into 'rooms'. Look to fabrics like linen that have a little weight to them and will tolerate being swung around or tied up.
+ The flooring is usually uniform throughout. By adding rugs, you can identify specific areas. A Moroccan Beni Ourain rug layered with a Turkish kilim rug would sit beautifully under a vintage industrial dining table.
+ Position sofas and armchairs to face each other, add in a rug, a coffee table and floor lamp. You're essentially creating a seating pod, which you can replicate a few times. Dividers, such as bookcases, filing cabinets or even large pieces of art or sculpture can provide a fluid wall within a space.



PAINT PALETTE

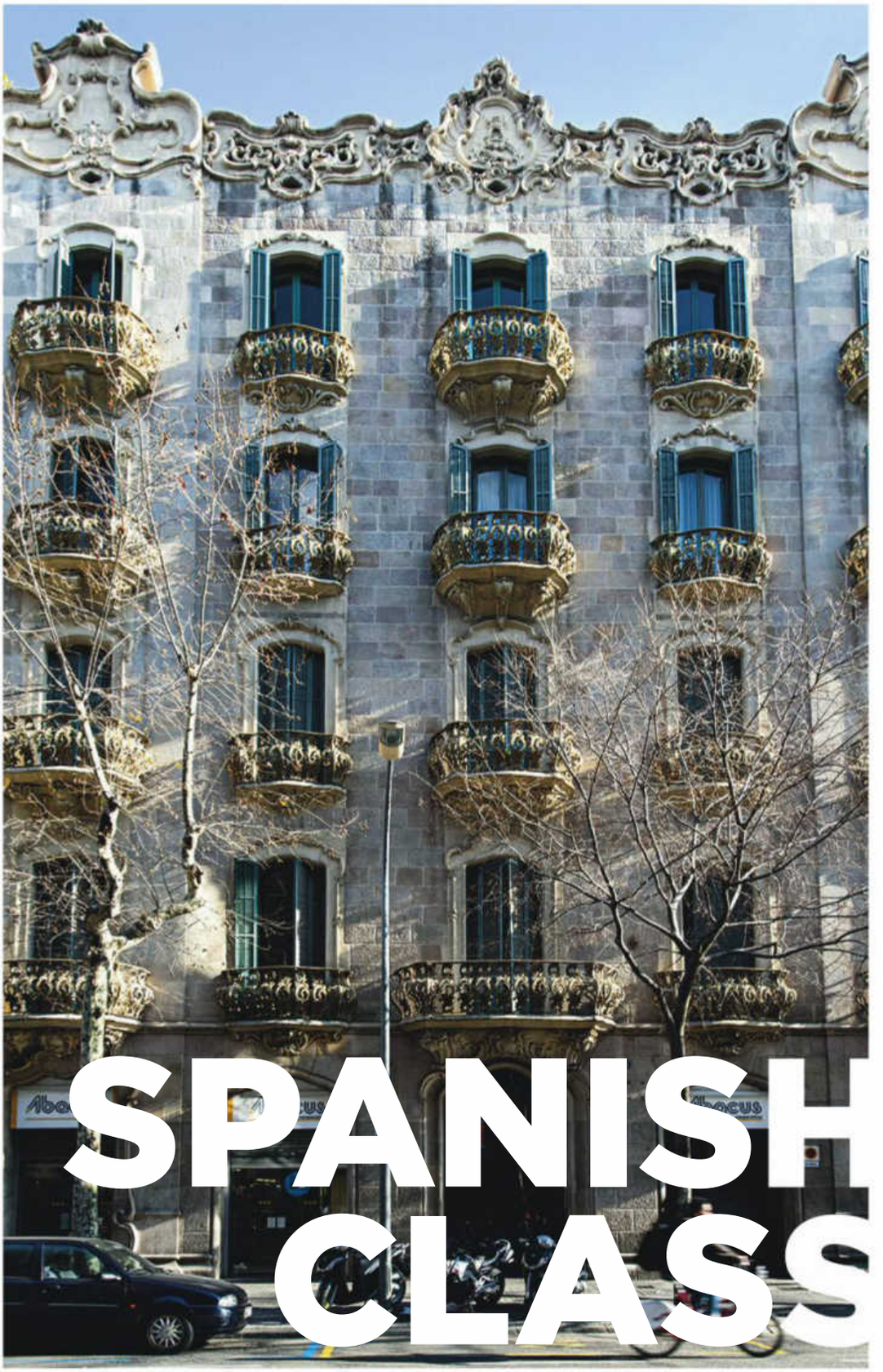
Lesley and Dennis have kept to expanses of pale colour to highlight their bowerbird collections. 'Clean & Protect' low sheen interior **paints** in Perfect Coastline, $56.90/4L, Black Ace, $60.90/4L, and Green Valley Island, $56.90/4L, all British Paints, britishpaints.com.au.

ADDITIONAL PRODUCT SOURCING: DANIELLE SELIG. PAINT COLOUR MAY VARY ON APPLICATION. PHOTOGRAPHY: (PORTRAIT) WILLIAM MEPPEM



"OUR GRANDCHILDREN TELL US WE CAN NEVER SELL – THE SPACE IS PERFECT FOR HIDE-AND-SEEK" LESLEY CRAWFORD, HOMEOWNER

MASTER BEDROOM The 1950s Italian Rococo couch is from Ken Neale, and the wardrobe is made of shelves on casters. A golden sun **(opposite)**, made for Sydney's Capitol Theatre, hangs above the bedhead, which was custom designed by Dennis. The pillows are covered in Kuba raffia, which the couple bought on a trip to South Africa.



SPANISH CLASS

ORNATE DECORATION AND HERITAGE DETAIL MEET CHIC SOPHISTICATION IN THIS BARCELONA APARTMENT

WORDS AND PRODUCTION **KERSTIN ROSE** PHOTOGRAPHY **CHRISTIAN SCHAULIN**

ARTWORK: (FEMALE SCULPTURE) PANTALEÓN

CHEAT SHEET

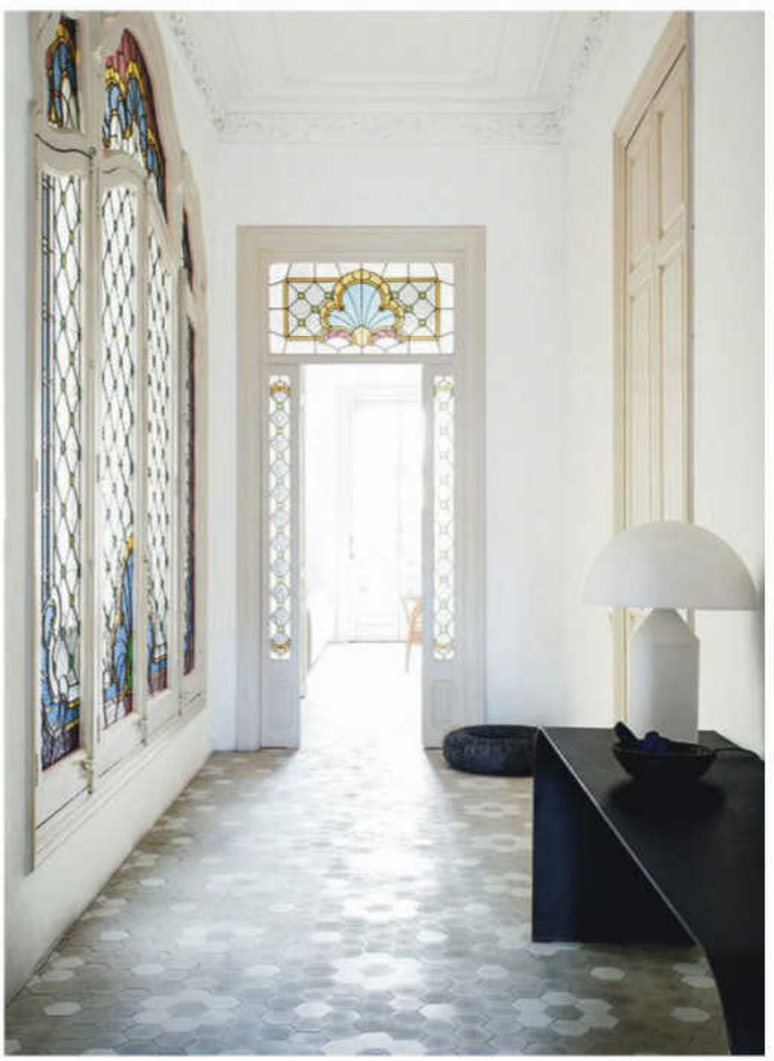
Who lives here: Elina Vilá, co- founder of VilaBlanch (estudiovilablanch.com); her husband, Ginés Gorriz; their son, Pablo, 24; and daughter, Luna, 16; plus dog, Fanta.
Style of house: A turn-of-the-century Modernista apartment on the outskirts of Barcelona, Spain.



EXTERIOR (opposite) The building's impressive facade.
LIVING ROOM Owners Elina and Ginés have invested in enviable furniture pieces for their home with the Living Divani 'Softwall' sofa and 'Family' chair, and 'Swan' chairs by Arne Jacobsen.







When the apartment of Elina Vilá and her husband Ginés Gorriz was built in 1910, Barcelona's economy was booming and splendid buildings were going up in the arty neighbourhood of Eixample. Modernista was the preferred architectural style among the upper echelons of society and 'God's architect', Antoni Gaudí, was its most famous exponent. Some of the buildings he designed are around the corner from Elina and Ginés's apartment. The architect behind their building, Telmo Fernandez Janot, was clearly inspired by Gaudí, with sumptuous facades and interiors typical of the era.

Elina and Gínes were bowled over by the beautiful stained-glass windows, the ornamented window and door panes, the stucco wreath, the old door frames, the floor-to-ceiling windows with decorated shutters and brass hinges, and the porcelain door handles. And they wondered at the grey, brown and white floor tiles, arranged to form flower patterns, in every room of the 240-square-metre apartment.

"Everything was just perfect," recalls Elina, co-founder of VilaBlanch, a well-known interior design studio. "Respecting the location is a part of our philosophy." The couple vowed to leave the rooms of the apartment as original as possible.

After a thorough clean, the apartment was rewired and painted. The only structural work was done in the bathroom and kitchen area. The kitchen was moved from the centre of the apartment to the front. The wall between the living and dining rooms was removed to connect the zones. The former kitchen was converted into two bathrooms, which are situated between the couple's bedroom and their daughter Luna's room. Their son, Pablo, occupies the rooms above.

In the other rooms, design classics such as dining chairs by Hans Wegner can be found next to modern lamps by Marcel Wanders and stools by Jasper Morrison. "We wanted to create a modern contrast to the original structure of the building," say Ginés. "As the apartment already boasted a wealth of original detail, we decided to use restrained colours and natural materials." The furniture combines quality with functionality. There are, however, a few exceptions. For example, the three white chairs by Junya Ishigami. "We couldn't resist them. They're simply too beautiful," says Elina.

DINING ROOM (opposite) The clean lines of timber furniture offset the apartment's ornate details. Wishbone chairs by Hans Wegner surround an e15 table, with a lamp by Poul Henningsen casting light on proceedings. **DETAIL (top)** Interesting forms above a cabinet in the living room. **HALLWAY (below)** Elina and Ginés were fascinated by the hallway on first inspection. It features beautiful stained-glass windows on three sides.



"AS THE BUILDING ALREADY BOASTED ORIGINAL DETAILS, WE DECIDED TO USE RESTRAINED COLOURS" GINÉS GORRIZ, HOMEOWNER

KITCHEN (opposite) The Dada kitchen is a new addition, creating a practical everyday zone, which is complemented by Cappellini 'Tate' stools.
TERRACE Daughter Luna plays with the family's dog, Fanta, at this picturesque vista at the rear of the apartment.





"THE UNIFORMITY OF THE PATTERNED FLOOR TILES IMPARTS A SENSE OF CALM AND SPACE" ELINA VILÁ, HOMEOWNER



MASTER SUITE (these pages) Elina and Ginés have kept it chic and simple with a Zanotta 'Mini' bed and timber elements from e15. The bathroom next to the bedroom **(opposite)** has a generous custom-made vanity with a large marble sink salvaged from the apartment's old kitchen.

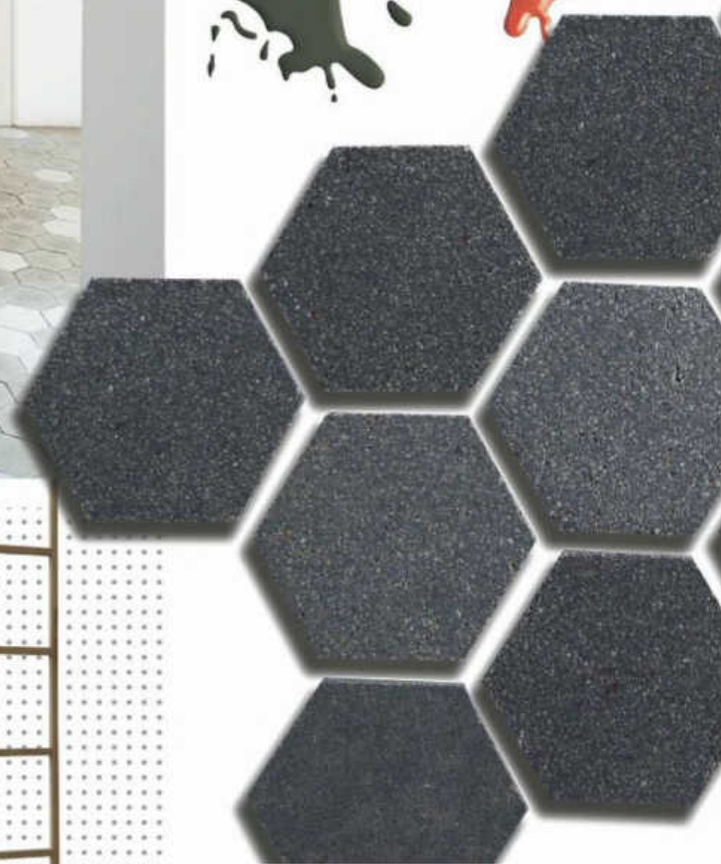


ADDITIONAL PRODUCT SOURCING: DANIELLE SELIG. PAINT COLOUR MAY VARY ON APPLICATION

PAINT PALETTE

Original detail and pale yet warm tones give this apartment its charm. 'Clean & Protect' low sheen interior **paint** in Chilled Champagne, $56.90/4L; '4 Seasons' low sheen exterior **paints** in Perfect Timing, $55.50/4L, and Daintree Beauty, $60.90/4L, all British Paints, britishpaints.com.au.





FEATURE TILE

'Basalt Hex' stone **mosaics**, $154/sqm, Signorino, signorino.com.au.

3 GREAT FINDS



Curated furniture pieces in clean lines are a standout element of Elina and Ginés's home. **1.** Moooi 'Farooo' floor **lamp** by Marcel Wanders, from $2140, Space Furniture, spacefurniture.com.au. **2.** Fritz Hansen 'Swan' **chair** by Arne Jacobsen in Brown Leather, $11,225, Cult, cultdesign.com.au. **3. Towel rail**, $850, Mark Tuckey, marktuckey.com.au.

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DREAM IT. DESIGN IT. DO IT.

bathing beauty

An elegant design belies the heavy daily workout this bathroom is put through by a family of four

WORDS **CLARE PATIENCE** PHOTOGRAPHY **ANNA ROBINSON**



"We searched high and low for the right bath mixer, because I wanted one with a hand shower," says homeowner Corinna. She opted for the floor-mounted Gareth Ashton 'Lucia' bath filler from Benton's Finer Bathrooms.



tiling Corinna chose a herringbone pattern (laid differently to the traditional style) for the wall tiles and recessed shelving to hold shower essentials. The parquetry-style ceramic floor tiles are from Academy Tiles.

Who lives here: Corinna Musgrave, interior designer and owner of Hunter & Ivy; her husband Mark, a strategy and implementation consultant; Corinna's son Dillon, 21, and Mark's son Luke, 18.
Style of bathroom: This new bathroom includes a separate powder room. It was relocated from a dark part of the house to a 3.1m x 3.6m former bedroom to create a bright space.
The project took about a year to complete. "We had design changes and council approvals that took up a lot of time. We had to wait for tiles to arrive from Italy," says Corinna.
$$$$ The budget was $80k, but this included another bathroom for a studio and the cost of installing new sewer lines.

CHANGING IT UP

If you took a poll to see which rooms in a family home cause the most consternation, you'd probably find the humble bathroom right up there in the number-one spot. And the bigger the family, the bigger the problems. Just ask Corinna Musgrave; at one stage, her tiny bathroom had to meet the needs of two adults and four teenage children. You can imagine the morning shower run wasn't the most peaceful way to get the day started. Despite the two eldest subsequently moving out, enough was enough. Corinna rolled up her sleeves and got serious about serenity.

DREAM IT.

A self-taught interior designer with many bathroom renovations under her belt, Corinna knew she wanted a space brimming with personality. "The wallpaper was the starting point of the whole concept," she says. "I ordered it well before I had even designed the bathroom. I fell in love with the print and just knew I had to have it somewhere in our home. Since the bathroom was the first 'kid off the block' in our renovation journey, that's where the wallpaper was going. All other design elements flowed on from there."

Corinna's wishlist

+ light and plenty of space Needs great light, good flow and has to be able to handle a few people in the bathroom at the same time, without us crashing into one another

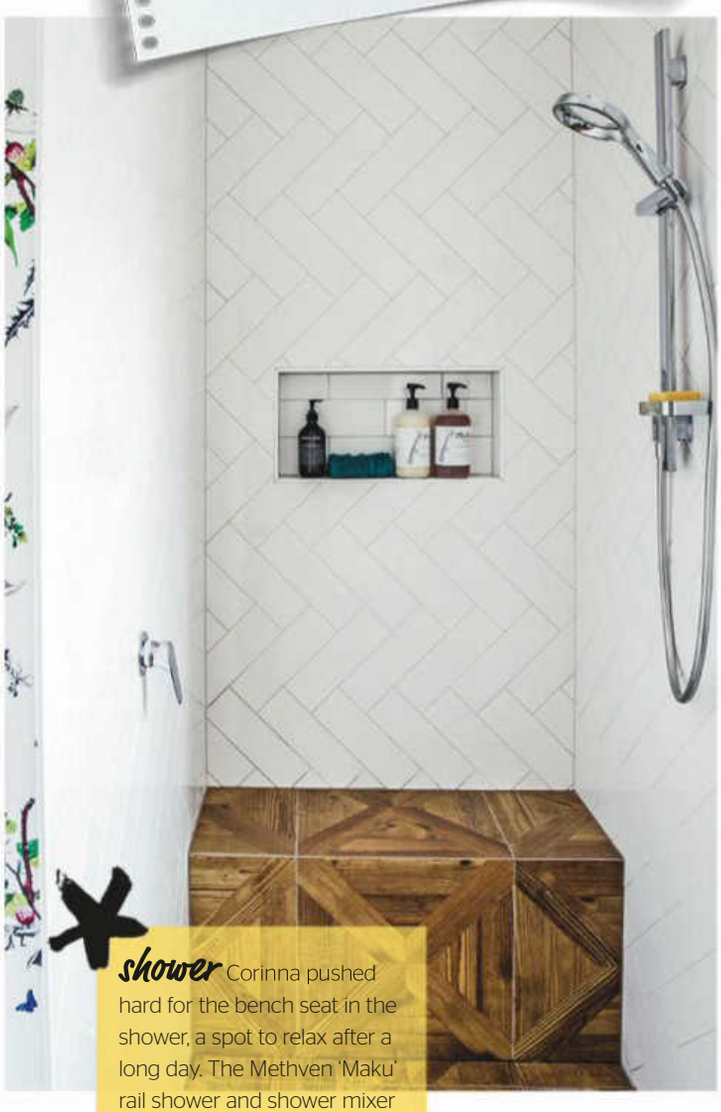
+ smart storage The new bathroom should have loads of storage that's easy to access

+ timeless appeal I want a bathroom that will age well and won't look dated in five years' time, but also have some personality with a few quirky design elements to reflect our personal tastes

+ shower seat I really want a bench seat in the shower for shaving your legs or just sitting down to let the water cascade over you when it's been one of those truly exhausting days

the woodboard





shower Corinna pushed hard for the bench seat in the shower, a spot to relax after a long day. The Methven 'Maku' rail shower and shower mixer make this much-used space a place of spa-like relaxation.



wallpaper The Kristjana S Williams wallpaper was inspiration for the room's style. "Condensation will destroy wallpaper," says Corinna, "so the trick is to keep a constant temperature of 21°C to 22°C and have impeccable ventilation."

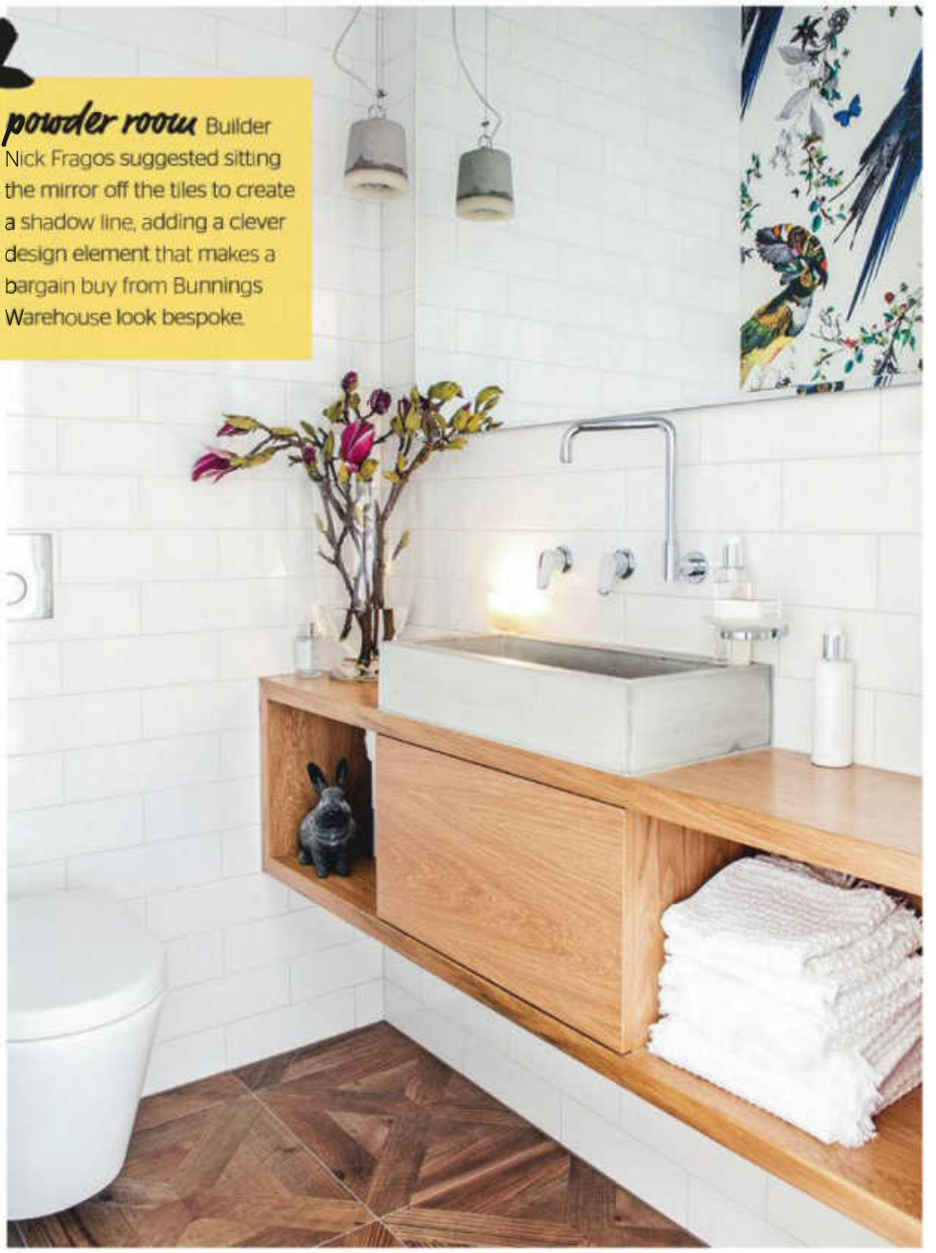
DESIGN IT.

Corinna was confident in drafting her own design, and "once it passed the critical eye of my husband, the technical drawings for the building surveyor were drawn up by my draftsperson," she says.

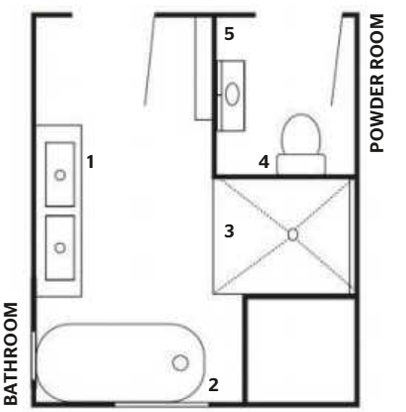
With a well-honed eye for personal style, Corinna knew she wanted a bathroom with a difference. "I didn't want a look that would date no black taps for me," she says. "My focus was on adding a sense of personality but making sure it wasn't too trend-focused."

Instead, Corinna opted for luxurious decorative elements. The star of the space is the wallpaper by artist Kristjana S Williams. "We love her art and when I discovered this wallpaper, it became the starting point for the entire look and feel for this project," she says.

Then there was a clever idea inspired by a luxury hotel on a holiday to Paris. "The bathroom had a hardwired, flexible magnifying make-up mirror with light. No more leaning over the bathroom sink to see what I'm doing a game changer," she says. "It was my personal non-negotiable from then on."



powder room Builder Nick Fragos suggested sitting the mirror off the tiles to create a shadow line, adding a clever design element that makes a bargain buy from Bunnings Warehouse look bespoke.



1. Vanity
2. Bathtub
3. Shower
4. Toilet
5. Vanity

DO IT.

Moving your bathroom across the house into a former bedroom is certainly no easy feat. There are detailed conversations about plumbing and sewer lines to have, especially for a home that's more than 100 years old. "We had to get the new sewer spur line from outside our property with about 30 metres of sewer dug in before we could commence building," says Corinna. Wrangling permits and subcontractors into place, Corinna's bathroom was almost ready to take shape in earnest.

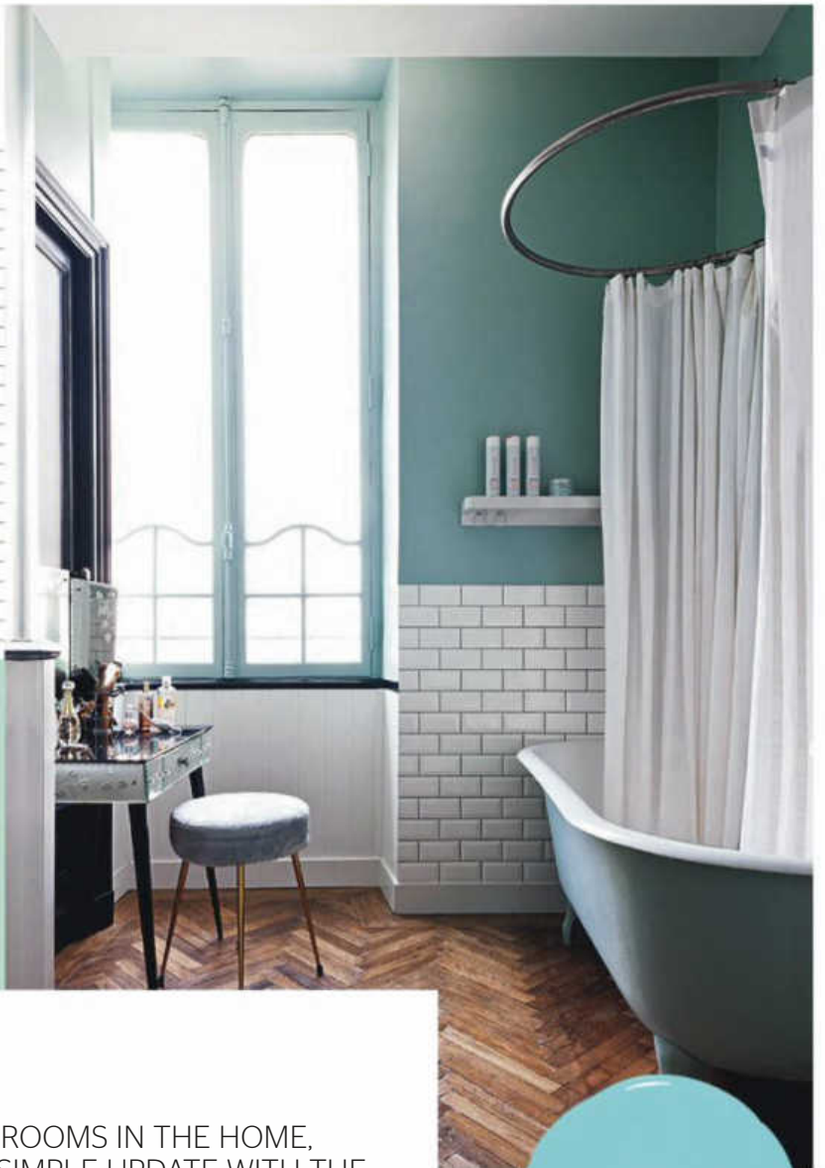
Blessed with a brilliant builder, Corinna got down to work. "My builder, Nick Fragos from Constra, was an absolute joy to work with," she says. Splitting the process between them helped maximise her talents and Nick's know-how. "As the builder, he was responsible for all internal construction work and managing his trades. I was responsible for organising permits, all design decisions, procuring all fixtures and fittings, managing wallpaper installation, the off-the-shelf as well as custom cabinetry, and organising all external plumbing," says Corinna.

With the hardest space in the home to get right now complete, Corinna and Mark are starting to look at the rest of the house. The beauty is, no matter how messy future renovations become, they'll always have this relaxing room to retreat to at the end of the day.

For more on Corinna's work, visit hunter-ivy.com.au.

the best bits

+ **storage** "Finally, we have space to organise the family bathroom essentials," says Corinna.
+ **parquetry-look tiles** "These were worth waiting more than 16 weeks for, as they are so photo realistic, have texture and with very little pattern repeat."
+ **underfloor heating** "It's lovely to step onto warm tiles on a cold winter's morning. It was my husband's must-have, so he gets brownie points for that one."



1. **Painting is both** a pretty and practical way to add charm to a bathroom. The soft green tone on the walls and bath teamed with the dark door gives a chic look to the room shown here. To protect against mould, mildew and bacteria, choose a paint from the British Paints 'Clean & Protect Kitchen and Bathroom' range, which is quick and easy to apply.

2. **A fast way** to change up the way a room looks is with a coat of paint – just choose a shade that works with your home's colour palette and then turn a plain white area into a room with personality. British Paints 'Clean & Protect Kitchen and Bathroom' is formulated to give a perfect, resilient finish for interior spaces and can be wiped clean time and again.

the big easy

THEY'RE OFTEN THE MOST HARDWORKING ROOMS IN THE HOME, SO GIVE YOUR KITCHEN AND BATHROOM A SIMPLE UPDATE WITH THE LATEST SHADES FROM THE BRITISH PAINTS 'CLEAN & PROTECT' RANGE

3. **More than just** a place for cooking, the kitchen is where everyone gathers, so it's important to give it a welcoming feel. A fresh hue, such as the soft grey shown here, gives the room a modern look. The British Paints 'Clean & Protect Kitchen and Bathroom' line comes in a variety of on-trend colours as well as classic tones.



BRITISH PAINTS
Freshness

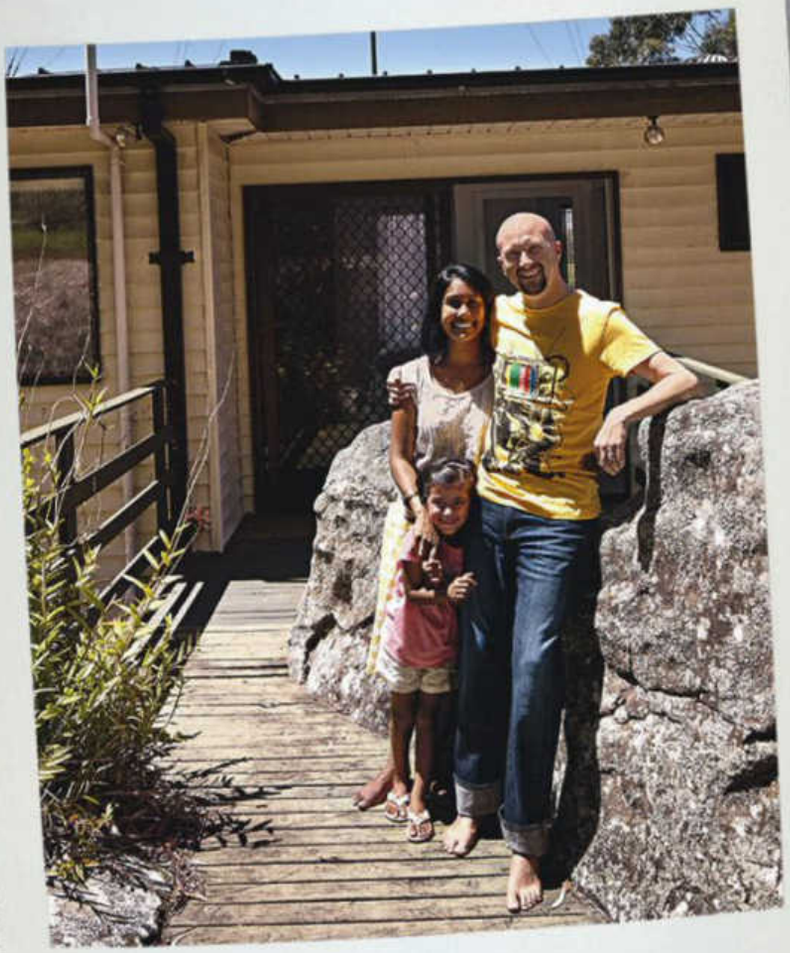
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THE FAMILY

WHAT NEEDS TO GO

Here's what Reshma and Darryn don't like about their home at the moment:

- ☒ the deck – it's an eyesore and potentially dangerous
- ☒ the living space needs a rethink to bring in more light
- ☒ the bathrooms need a new lease on life
- ☒ the upstairs area, home to two bedrooms, a bathroom and the laundry, is barely used





The deck's dated plastic roof and decaying structure is a real issue for Reshma and Darryn.

renovation 101

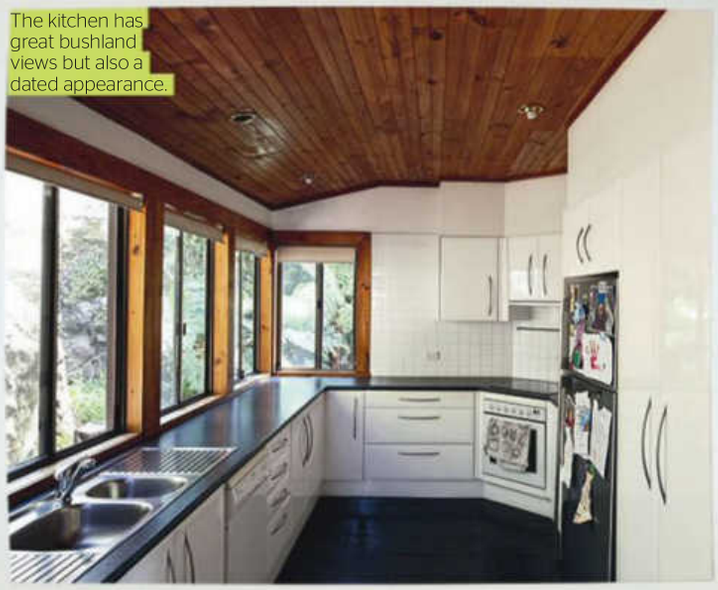
dated '70s manor

With its rotting deck, decaying cladding and tired appearance, this family home is in dire need of the Panel's advice

WORDS **FIONA JOY** PHOTOGRAPHY **NIGEL LOUGH**



This living area has the potential to link with the outdoors for a more expansive space.



The kitchen has great bushland views but also a dated appearance.

CHEAT SHEET

Who lives here: Reshma Prasad; her husband, Darryn Alderson; and their daughter, Navia, 4; plus two cats Izzy and Ella.
Style of house: A four-bedroom, early '70s timber-clad home on a steep and rocky 930-square-metre block.

the story so far

Darryn grew up in nearby Como, NSW, and persuaded Reshma to leave the inner city to set up home in this idyllic spot. They bought the house nine years ago and have been working on it in fits and starts ever since. The elevated position, set into a rocky hillside, makes for a fairytale setting that the family enjoys from the huge front deck.

what's not working?

The house has zero street appeal. Darryn calls it "Death Trap Manor"; the cladding is in a state of disrepair and the green painted deck is rotten in places and roofed with dirty corrugated plastic. Access to the house is via a precipitous concrete ramp or a set of rickety stairs. Inside, the living space is small and the bathroom a shrine to the 1980s.

what do they need?

Reshma and Darryn want to sort out the access to the house, replace the deck and improve the flow between the living space and the outdoors. They'd also like to replace the downstairs bathroom and create a walk-in wardrobe off the master bedroom.

what's stopping them?

The pair are hamstrung by indecision. They each have strong opinions on the best way forward and are finding compromise tricky.



THE REALTOR

Geoff Luby
Director, Century 21 Hill & Viteri Real Estate, century21.com.au

the market

Oyster Bay is very much a family-oriented area and buyers are primarily second-timers. Property east of the railway has been more popular over the years but, with the great jump in prices in the past year or so, prices west of the line have been pushed up. People are also moving south from the St George area in search of more affordable homes. In terms of the market, things are levelling off. The heat has come out of it in recent months. There are still buyers out there and prices are being achieved but the sense of urgency and fear of loss – has faded somewhat and the buyers aren't as aggressive.

the opportunity

Buyers are looking for a property with a minimum of three bedrooms, two bathrooms and a garage. It also needs to be close to transport links. Reshma and Darryn's place ticks all these boxes. The deck would be a good place to spend money the way the house presents now might scare potential buyers as they wouldn't know what they were in for. Also, because the block is an odd shape, landscaping would be well worth doing. Most people prefer a level block; steep driveways and disjointed gardens do put people off, but if it's well landscaped they may be willing to compromise. In the end, it all comes down to price.

THE BUDGET

$150k

Reshma and Darryn have a healthy budget of $150k but they are realistic about how much of the total renovation this will cover.

ADVICE PROVIDED IS OF A GENERAL NATURE AND SHOULD BE TREATED AS A STARTING POINT. LOOK INTO YOUR LOCAL COUNCIL REQUIREMENTS AND REGULATIONS BEFORE STARTING ANY RENOVATION WORK



THE ARCHITECT

Andrew Benn
Director, Benn + Penna Architecture,
bennandpenna.com



1



2



4



3

out the front

I really like this house. It's like a timber treehouse and has a romantic feel to it. The impression from the street is quite dramatic. Yes, the front of the house has fallen into disrepair but a new balcony will transform it. Reshma and Darryn are talking about using glass to make the most of the view, but I think this would be a mistake. Not only is it not in keeping with the style of the house, it would soon get dirty and be a nightmare to clean at this height off the ground. I'd suggest a cantilevered steel frame – so it appears to float with a black steel balustrade, which can be a delicate design. Reshma and Darryn also need to consider the underside of the decking as that's what you see as you approach the house; it's like another facade.

open to new possibilities

To improve the connection between the new deck and the living space, and to make the most of the outlook, glass doors are an obvious go-to. Sliders would be my preference; bi-folds take up precious floor space and the multiple panels interrupt the view. Sliders are also easier to screen.

what to do upstairs

What Reshma and Darryn need is more usable living space and upstairs are two bedrooms that are currently being used to house Reshma's complete collection of *Encyclopedia Britannica*! It wouldn't be a big job to take down the wall between the bedroom and the staircase to create a mezzanine living area. It would connect with the existing lounge room downstairs and also flow out to the spectacular rocky garden area at the back. As Navia grows, she could move into the other bedroom and have her own quarters. And Darryn and Reshma could knock through to her current bedroom downstairs to create the walk-in robe that Reshma dreams of.

"For the balcony, I'd suggest a cantilevered steel frame – so it appears to float – with a black steel balustrade in a delicate design"



THE STYLIST

Lisa Koehler
ISCD educator, stylist and interior decorator

facade first

When selecting exterior colours, it's important to consider how your home's surroundings embrace the architectural detail. Ideally, your house will complement its backdrop, so that should provide inspiration for the palette. Darryn and Reshma's home is surrounded by natural bush and beautiful rock. The natural stone contains various shades of grey-blue tones and green from the lichen, which they could incorporate into a scheme. It's also important to consider the fixed features, such as the window trim, gutters and roof tiles because often these elements don't change. They become the framework for the exterior palette and help narrow your colour selection.

deck considerations

Reshma and Darryn are planning a completely new deck and it's important to think about how they want to use the space before finalising the details. In this case, it's going to be an integral part of the home the family already spends a lot of time out here so traffic flow is important. They should think about the entry and exit points, as people need to be able to move freely from the house to the deck. Furniture choice should complement the style of the house and the interior to create an inviting atmosphere for family and friends. Then it's on to the finishing details, such as planters, lighting and other decorative accessories.

PHOTOGRAPHY: (PORTRAITS) NIGEL LOUGH. (GARDEN) JASON BUSCH. GARDEN DESIGN: PETER FUDGE GARDENS, PETERFUDGEGARDENS.COM.AU. ADVICE PROVIDED IS OF A GENERAL NATURE AND SHOULD BE TREATED AS A STARTING POINT. LOOK INTO YOUR LOCAL COUNCIL REQUIREMENTS AND REGULATIONS BEFORE STARTING ANY RENOVATION WORK. PAINT COLOUR MAY VARY ON APPLICATION



5



These soft tones have been inspired by the bush surrounding Reshma and Darryn's home.

6

1. 'Dream Weaver' **shade**, from $870, Pop & Scott, popandscott.com. **2, 3 & 4.** 'Reef' outdoor occassional **chair**, $945; 'Reef' outdoor round **coffee table**, $1200; and 'Reef' outdoor 3-seater **sofa**, $4030, all GlobeWest, globewest.com.au. **5.** Fab Habitat 'Diamond Round' outdoor **rug**, $50, Fenton & Fenton, fentonandfenton.com.au. **6.** 'Clean & Protect' low sheen interior **paints** in Renewed Timber, $60.90/4L; Pathways and Set in Stone, $56.90/4L, all British Paints, 132 525. **7.** Shibori outdoor **cushions**, $110 each, Coco Republic, 1300 000 220.



living in harmony
Homeowners Reshma and Darryn can take inspiration from the beautiful natural bush surrounds when choosing a colour palette for their home, outside and in.



THE BUILDER

Wayd Munro
Focusbuild,
focusbuild.com.au

safety first

Safety is a real issue on the deck. The timber hasn't been maintained and is rotten in places. The handrails wouldn't be legal these days. If anyone were to fall off – or through – there could be a question of liability. The work out here needs to be a priority because of these issues.

the best-laid plans

Reshma and Darryn are in the process of putting in plans to council and, once they have approval, they intend on using those plans to get a number of quotes in from building companies. This causes me some concern as DA plans lack detail and are open to a huge scale of interpretation. The quotes may vary wildly and the one they pick may not be the best quote with the most inclusions. Using an architect is the ideal way to go, as architectural plans leave nothing to chance. If they're going to manage it themselves, Reshma and Darryn need to be across every last detail as the more information they have up front, the better. And they need to find a builder they can absolutely trust.

living with the build

The best thing about this project is that the family could stay on site throughout and tackle it in sections. Access isn't an issue as all the work on the exterior can be done from outside. The bathrooms can be replaced one at a time and if they want to open up the kitchen, they can use the barbecue out on the new deck! Taking down the wall between the kitchen and living room would require putting in a steel frame, but it's not a big job. The thought of being able to sit and see the view of treetops out the front and the dramatic rock face at the back will make all the work worth it. 10

BI-FOLDS OR SLIDERS?

Wayd says sliders are the way to go here: "They're a better option structurally as the bottom rollers take the weight and they aren't prone to twisting. With the house built on a combination of rock and clay, there will be movement as the weather changes, so bi-folds might be problematic."



7

11 IDEAS FOR AN ENTERTAINER'S KITCHEN

If you're that friend whose place is known as the get-together hub, planning a new kitchen comes with a little pressure. Here are Shannon Vos's top design elements to consider including in the heart of the home

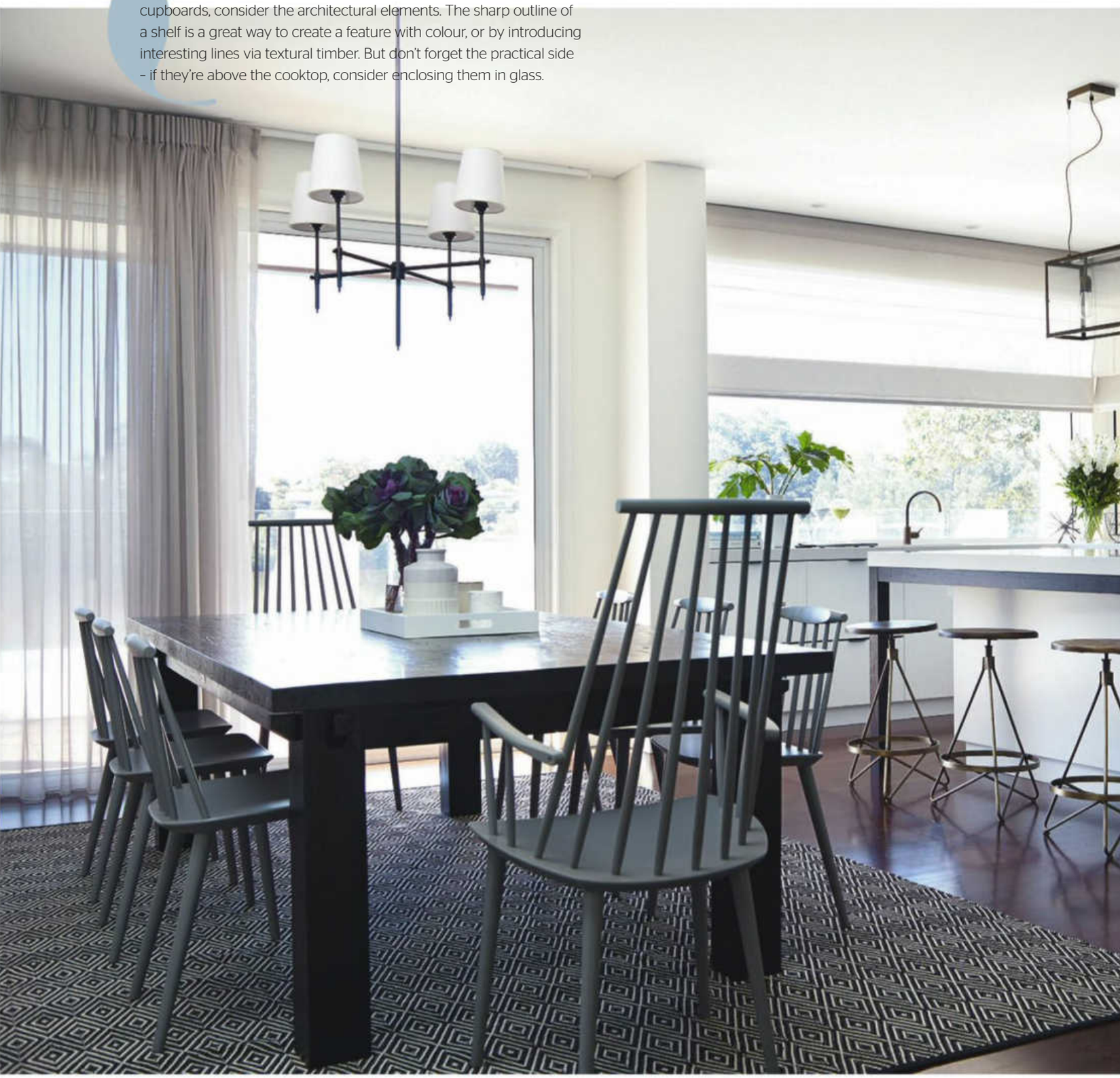


1 BUTLER'S PANTRY

Space is the ultimate luxury these days and that, of course, is rarely more evident than in the kitchen. The biggest brag about having more space has to be the inclusion of a butler's pantry, and it's not just for show either. Having all that space out of view perhaps under a connected stairwell, behind the main wall of appliances or, in this Horton & Co. kitchen (hortonandco.com.au), to the side really makes it easy to keep your main kitchen area clean both day-to-day and when you have loads of friends around. Easily ensuring your status as an impeccable host, it's the perfect hiding place for all the functional elements of your kitchen the fridge, microwave, toaster, kettle and extra glasses and the not so 'aesthetically pleasing' details such as Aunt Cathy's handmade platter or last night's dishes.

2 DISPLAY CABINETS

If you want your kitchen to feel homely without all the clutter, consider cabinets that give guests a taste of your personal style. Though not terribly in theme with modern design, displaying favourite items (not the kids' toys!) can make for a beautiful vignette just as it does in any other area. When you're displaying your possessions, think about shape and colour; in particular, repetition of similar items works well in this space designed by Horton & Co. (hortonandco.com.au). When it comes to the actual cupboards, consider the architectural elements. The sharp outline of a shelf is a great way to create a feature with colour, or by introducing interesting lines via textural timber. But don't forget the practical side – if they're above the cooktop, consider enclosing them in glass.





PHOTOGRAPHY (RIGHT) FRASER MARSDEN



3 ISLAND STORAGE

Entertainers need space and the more the better. I mean, where else do you keep 30 or so champagne coupes for that New Year's Eve soirée? Likewise, those bigger items – such as platters, punch bowls and fine china – need to be accessible but out of the way and an island bench is perfect for that. Try incorporating deep drawers (preferably with sides) and, if possible, locate them somewhere that doesn't open directly into the main thoroughfare. If you want a more open feel, try to limit the kinds of items you stack. Plates, bowls and baking trays are easy to keep stacked neatly, as seen in this kitchen by MAArchitects (above, maarchitects.com.au). The side that faces away from the kitchen is great for cookbooks and smaller decorative items such as candles.



4 PASS WINDOW

There's a common theme in many of these points, and that's the fact that the Australian lifestyle is all about bringing the outdoors in. Including a servery or a pass window to an external area, usually a terrace or deck area, will promote indoor/outdoor living as seen in architect Tash Clark's kitchen (below, tashclark.com) and ease congestion in the kitchen. Integrate the servery so it also doubles as a breakfast bar area with stools; just make sure you can close it all off to the weather when it's not being used. If you have the space, as this design by Lisa Hannaford Interiors does (left, lisahannafordinteriors.com.au), try not to situate work areas such as sinks or cooktops on the pass bench. This surface is much better reserved for chopping, plating up and a drink or two.

PHOTOGRAPHY: (TOP) LISBETH GROSMANN, (BOTTOM) NATALIE HUNFALVAY (OPPOSITE) ANSON SMART.
STYLING: (BOTTOM) ADAM ROBINSON, (OPPOSITE) MARIA DYONIZIAK





5 FEATURE ELEMENT

An entertainer's kitchen should make a statement – after all, that's why you've renovated and want to have people over, isn't it? While a classic white kitchen with clean lines will never date, you can give your space that designer edge by going bold with one or two elements. Some interesting lighting, a delicate calacatta marble benchtop or even a bespoke piece of joinery like the wall of citrus-yellow fronted cabinetry in this Olga Gruzdeff project (olgagruzdeff.com) will not only wow your guests; it will give your new room a massive dose of personality. For a more budget-friendly option, a few standout stools at the bench will make a style statement.

6 FREE-FLOW DESIGN

Having good flow in a kitchen is vital to its functionality, and, in turn, its aesthetic. If you have the square footage, a 'walk-around' island bench, such as the one in this zone designed by Minosa (minosadesign.com), creates a sense of space and luxury that is seldom delivered by other elements. There are no corners to get stuck in and traffic will move more freely, especially if you have guests. A functional working triangle (fridge, sink and cooktop) will also mean you can make the most of your kitchen. If you're someone who has a lot of people around on a regular basis, you might want to position the fridge at one end or near an opening, so they can help themselves to drinks. Also, consider two sinks so tasks can be divided between them.



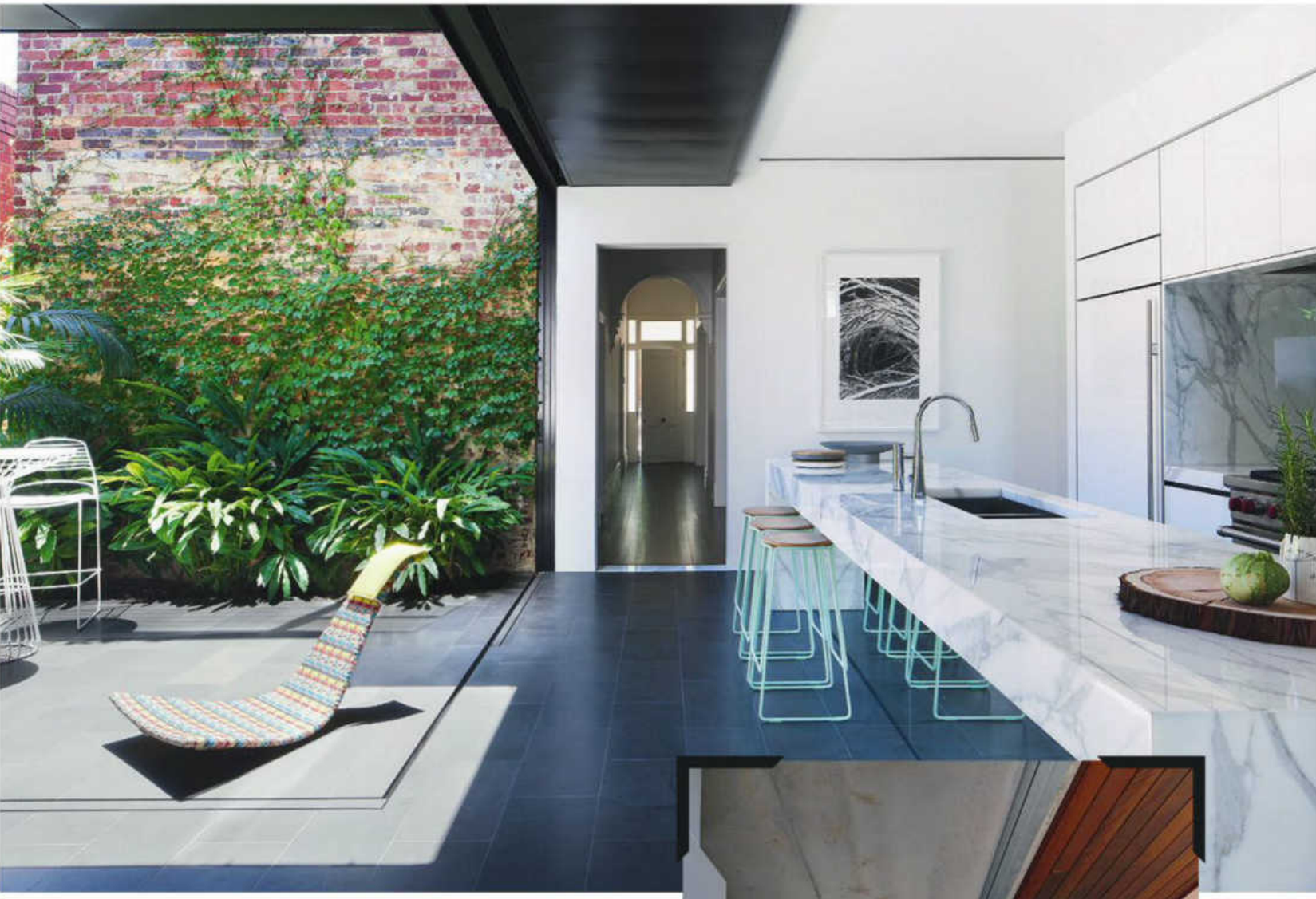


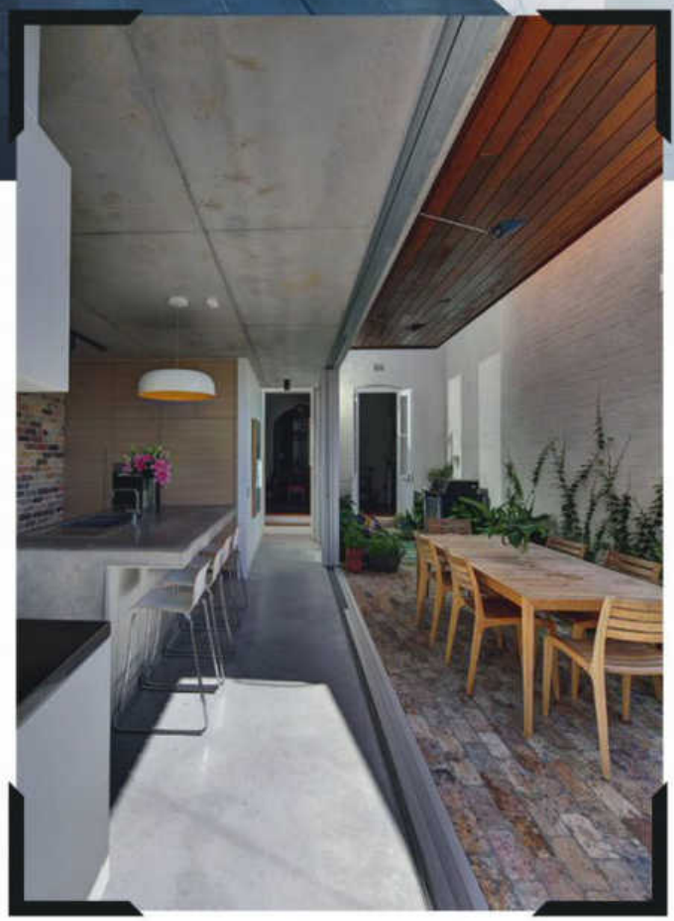


PHOTOGRAPHY: (OPPOSITE) NICOLE ENGLAND, (MAIN) SHARYN CAIRNS

7 THE RIGHT APPLIANCES

Functionality is key to entertaining, and while top-of-the-range appliances will wow your guests, choosing suitable equipment that will make your parties easier is what it's all about. It helps if the design, as seen in this kitchen by Rosstang Architects (rosstang.com.au), allows the appliances to seamlessly fit in. Opt for a wider 90cm oven or even a double oven for those roasts and bulk bakes; cooktops with extra burners that combine, depending on your cookware, are great for larger dishes like whole fish; and French-door fridges will make it a breeze to store extra food and accommodate wide platters once you've prepped and plated up. If you can, have a separate drinks fridge easily accessible for friends to top up their glasses.





8 INDOORS AND OUT

We live in the best country in the world, and the best room in the house is not actually inside. Cook outside, eat outside and entertain outside! Make the most of both kitchen and courtyard by creating a seamless connection with location and clever material choices. Doors that seem to disappear and having the same floor level across the zones are essential, as in this space by Matt Gibson Architecture + Design (above, mattgibson.com.au). In the best-case scenario, your kitchen will run from inside to out with barbecue included. In terraces, flip the idea of locating the living space at the back, leading to the yard, and go for a galley style that runs the kitchen down one side, such as this one by Scale Architecture (right, scalearchitecture.com). L-shaped designs also work beautifully.

PHOTOGRAPHY: (TOP) SHANNON McGRATH, (BOTTOM) BRETT BOARDMAN



9 LUXURY OF SPACE

Again, space is a luxury you simply can't buy in a store. If you have the option, going bigger with the structural elements will give your kitchen that extra something special while also making it so much more functional. Go for 1800mm-wide walkways and island benches and even oversized countertops, as seen in this Ballingslöv kitchen (en.ballingslovinternational.se) – to give your cooking zone a sense of grandeur and allow more flow of traffic when you need it. However, be careful not to put too much space between key prep areas, such as your fridge and sink, though. No-one wants to run a half marathon while the in-laws are over for dinner... or do they?

10 A LARGE SINK

An oversized sink is a must-have for any serious entertainer. We all get stuck trying to wash platters and oven trays – not to mention those fragile glasses – in a tiny sink. If you're starting from scratch, keep your smaller variety in the butler's pantry and save your statement sink (yes, there is such a thing) for all to see. You can have almost any shape or size in aluminium, but there's a nice sense of family-friendly style that goes with a Belfast sink – the bigger the better, as seen in this Templer Interiors design (below, templerinteriors.co.nz). Just be careful with those delicate glasses against the porcelain! A big sink also serves as a neat hiding place for piles of dirty dishes.





PHOTOGRAPHY: LARNIE NICOLSON, (OPPOSITE, TOP) GIBEON PHOTOGRAPHY, (OPPOSITE, BOTTOM) PETER CLARKE



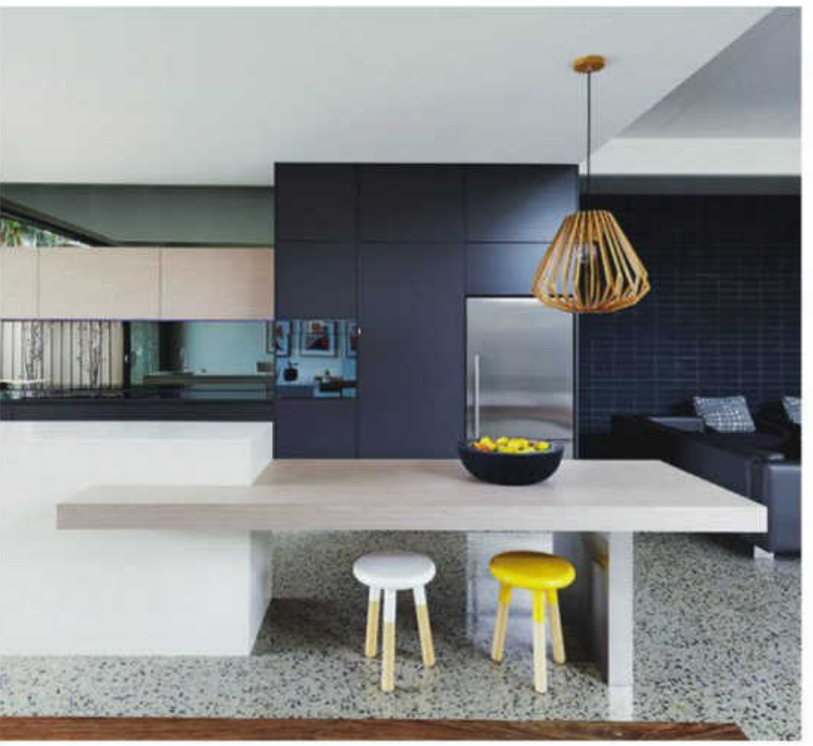
11 AN INTEGRATED DINING TABLE

I'm a massive fan of island benches that are extended to incorporate a separate dining area. They bring a unique architectural element to a kitchen as these examples by Hughesumbanhower (above) and Mim Design (left) prove. Saving space by designing a built-in dining table can also save you a few bucks when it comes time for furniture shopping. Though not ideal for large dinners (keep it under eight), they are great for the casual entertainer who wants to keep friends close while cooking. Having a 'good room' – a separate, more formal dining space – would mean you could cover all dinner-style options. 10

For details on Shannon's work, visit voscreative.com.au.

what's your style?
island benches

This kitchen staple means more work space, as well as social activity.



1 FAMILY TIES

A streamlined bench and dining area is at the centre of this family kitchen

Interior architect: Melissa Drew of Mosmo Living (mosmoliving.com.au).
Style of project: A cooking zone that connects with the living area.

A modern extension on the back of an 1890s Adelaide villa houses this open family kitchen with a polished concrete floor. The brief called for a central bench area where family and friends could congregate while allowing the cook to be a part of the action.
The prep section encompasses an undermount sink set into a 12mm DuPont Corian solid surface benchtop and matching surround, which has been crafted to ensure a box-like form without delineation between the top and sides. A scullery hidden behind the panelling next to the fridge means the island benchtop can be kept tidy and free of clutter when guests are over.

A popular alternative to granite or marble, solid surface (such as Corian) is a non-porous material made from natural minerals and acrylic resin. Sections can be glued together and, once the adhesive has dried, the joints are sanded and polished to create that sought-after seamless look.



2 INDUSTRIAL EDGE

This bench echoes the galley kitchen behind it in a Melbourne home

Owner/designer: Brett Murray. **Interior designer:** Simon Carver.
Style of project: A clever brewery conversion and fit-out.

A 19th-century brewery in Collingwood was converted into a four-level loft-style apartment. The industrial-style kitchen is a mix of contrasts with an exposed brick wall and stained pine panels housing the rangehood. The gunmetal cabinetry is from Freedom Kitchens and the statement pendant light is by Christopher Boots.
The enormous feature that serves as dining table, preparation bench and kitchen island is the focal piece of the room. Found on eBay, its original home was an Adelaide farmhouse and it comfortably seats 12. It serves to anchor the soaring loft-style environment and suits the overall moody tones, accessorised with vintage decorative items and collected homewares.

One-off, preloved pieces, such as this striking farmhouse table, are best found through antiques centres and markets, consignment companies (including Home Furniture On Consignment), and online auction sites. Don't forget to add transport costs to the purchase price.

PHOTOGRAPHY: (OPPOSITE, FROM LEFT) SAM NOONAN, DEREK SWALWELL, TOBY SCOTT AND SIMON KENNEDY. STYLING: (THIS PAGE, RIGHT) RACHEL VIGOR

Here are four designs that get it right WORDS **FIONA JOY**

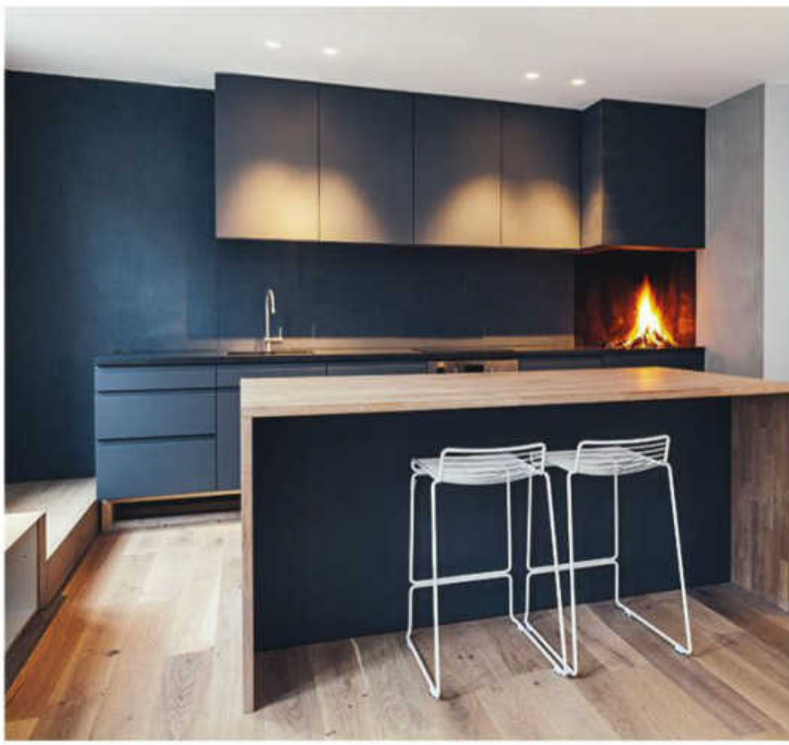


3 ENTERTAINER'S DELIGHT
It's a sunny outlook for everyone with this airy cooking zone in Brisbane

Interior designer: Darren James of Darren James Interiors (darrenjames.com.au).
Style of project: A renovation and extension to maximise the views.

This picturesque weatherboard house in the Brisbane fringe suburb of Bardon had a total renovation and extension built over the course of a year. To make the most of the home's views stretching out over a leafy outlook to the CBD, the modern kitchen/living/TV room was built with access to an elevated outdoor area with a second kitchen. **The central kitchen bench design** is two-fold the cooktop and prep zone is solid surface by Samsung Staron, with the recessed shelf area lit from above by an integrated lightbox; the dining bench sits a little higher and is made from Caesarstone. From here, the family can enjoy the breeze from the outdoor entertaining area.

Caesarstone is manufactured using 93 per cent quartz aggregates, while the remaining seven per cent is pigments and resin. It's often used as an alternative to granite but, as Caesarstone is a lot less porous, virtually unstainable and maintenance free.



4 NORTHERN EXPOSURE
A minimalist social nook that showcases refined Nordic style

Architect: Nikki Butenschøn at Haptic (hapticarchitects.com).
Style of project: A complete overhaul and rethink of the space.

This minimalist apartment is situated on the top floor of a 19th-century building in the centre of the Norwegian capital, Oslo. This room was part of a total refurbishment project, which involved moving the original kitchen described as "tight, inefficient and north facing" into the common living area, where the architect was able to create a space that has become the social heart of the home. **A small open fireplace** has been integrated into the worktop and the cabinet fronts are painted to match the colour of the fireplace. Beautifully simple oak flooring and joinery completes the quintessential Scandinavian style. Two pairs of downlights are cleverly positioned to highlight the cooking and prep zones.

Every timber benchtop will have its own markings and character, adding warmth to a kitchen and complementing harder finishes, such as stainless steel. Nicks, scratches and stains can often enhance the appearance over time, but can be sanded back and refinished where necessary.

what's your style?

island benches



1



LIGHT

Metallics add a touch of luxe. 'Industria Skyline' ceiling **light**, $495, GlobeWest, globewest.com.au.

BENCHTOP

Join-free surfaces mean no-fuss maintenance. DuPont Corian **solid surface** in Glacier White, from $450/lineal metre, CASF, casf.com.au.



TAP

A simple design with white detail to match the kitchen. Teknobili 'Acquerelli' pull-out **sink mixer**, $637, Reece, reece.com.au.

key to success

The combined island bench and dining table creates one large entertaining area, effortlessly connecting to the living zone



STOOL

Bring some fun and a casual feel to the dining space with colour. 'Malmo' **stool**, $199, Middle Of Nowhere, middleofnowhere.com.au.



2



LIGHT

Statement lighting needn't get lost in an expansive space. 'BCAA' 7-branch **light** in Aged Brass, from $1718, Christopher Boots, christopherboots.com.



key to success

The use of black for a cohesive look, from the splashback to the central work/dining table

STOOL

Maintain an industrial-chic aesthetic with a Tolix 'Tabouret' **stool**, from $350, Thonet, thonet.com.au.

TABLE

The raw warmth of timber is ideal in cool warehouse spaces. 'Somerset' **dining table**, $2990, Searles Homewares, searleshomewares.com.au.



TILE

A feature splashback adds pattern. S/Tones porcelain **mosaics** in Hexagon Graphite, $310/sqm, Signorino Tile Gallery, signorino.com.au.

PHOTOGRAPHY: (OPPOSITE, FROM LEFT) SAM NOONAN, DEREK SWALWELL, TOBY SCOTT AND SIMON KENNEDY; (CHRISTOPHERBOOTS LIGHT) CHRISTINE FRANCIS. STYLING: (THIS PAGE, RIGHT) RACHEL VIGOR. PAINT COLOUR MAY VARY ON APPLICATION



3

COUNTERTOP

A sleek grey surface that offers good looks and resilience. **Quartz surface** in Clamshell, Caesarstone, $450/sqm (including installation), caesarstone.com.au.



STOOL

For a casual yet chic entertaining, bar stools are a must. Eric Buch oak **bar stool** in Mint, $950, Great Dane, greatdanefurniture.com.

key to success

This multifunctional bench doesn't detract from the main event: the view outside

RUG

Add texture and interest underfoot with a rug. 'Madras' round **rug**, $399, Freedom, freedom.com.au.



TAP

Go with a practical option, such as the Mizu 'Drift' **sink mixer**, $233, Reece, reece.com.au.



4

FLOORING

The pale timber breaks up the dark palette. Royal Oak Floors 'Architect Collection' **flooring** in White Smoked, $93.50/sqm, Harper & Sandilands, royaloakfloors.com.au.



STOOL

Lightweight metal in neutral tones sits well within a minimalist room. Hay 'Hee' **bar stool**, $430, Cult, cultdesign.com.au.

key to success

A smart reconfiguration has resulted in a light and airy space championing clean lines, a pared-back palette and natural materials

BENCHTOP

A timber work surface brings a tactile look. 'Möllekulla' **worktop**, from $220, IKEA, ikea.com/au.

PAINT

A lick of paint transforms quickly and cheaply. 'Wash & Wear 101 Barrier Technology' low sheen acrylic **paint** in Blue Sou'wester, $85.90/4L, Dulux, dulux.com.au.



ready, set, fabulous

You've finished the kitchen reno and now everyone wants to have a nosy poke. Plan a big party and, with these dos and don'ts, you'll enjoy it all the more

ILLUSTRATION: YEBIN, YEBINDESIGN.KR

There are two kinds of people in life: entertainers and those who lose their stuffing at the thought of a friend dropping by for a cup of tea. If you sit in the former camp, feel free to take yourself off to the kitchen to whip up a croquembouche. For the rest of you, it's time to take a deep breath and make a plan for having a bunch of your nearest and dearest around; we're about to make the process a LOT easier.

You see, phase two of the food revolution has hit Australian homes. Family dinners have moved on from chops and three veg to paleo protein and super greens, possibly with zingy pesto. What's more, homeowners who've spent up big on their reno are desperate to host friends and family in their shiny new spaces. "People also have less time in their lives to catch up with friends," says Kirsten Jenkins, style editor at *delicious.* magazine. "It's easier to have more people around all at once, rather than cook five dinners for four. Catering for more guests means that you need to change the way you plan."

In a nutshell, entertaining family and friends should be about spending time with them, and not feeling stuck in the kitchen, so aim for as much prep before the event as possible, and remember that big plates of colourful salad are modern, fun, and easy to whip up. Here are more dos and don'ts for choosing and preparing a menu for guests.

DO

+ Veto single serves In the same way that many restaurants have moved to share plates, it pays to plan a menu that allows you to make fewer dishes. "I can imagine why people start to stress about cooking single steaks – that's nearly impossible to get right," says Kirsten. "That's where the stress sets in." Go for a hero protein option, such as a whole joint of meat. That will stop the fiddly cooking process and also give your menu focus.

+ Bring on the appliances For mid-week meals, you may not bother getting out those appliances buried at the back of the cupboard, but when you have a crew coming, make the most of gadgets that save time. Get them all out at the beginning – if they're on the bench ready to go, you'll find lots of different uses for them.

+ Serve hot food cold Much like revenge, there's a lot to be gained by serving food that you'd traditionally consume warm, cold. Apart from the fact that it feels as if you're eating something bigger, it also allows you to do the food prep ahead of time.

+ Consider a grazing table This caters for all kinds of guests – those who are hungry and those who just want to pick. Even better, it can mostly be set up ahead of time. The key to a beautiful display is height, variety and repetition. Use upturned bowls and chopping boards to get a layered effect, along with a variety of produce, meats, cheeses, olives, fruits and nuts, repeated around the table.

+ Invest in platters If you're going to be presenting your meal either at a separate table or down the centre of the one you're eating at, it's worth investing in a couple of great oversized platters. Presentation becomes almost as important as the food, so those big items will be key to your look. Consider different shapes and colours, and layer in pattern with your napkins and smaller decorative items.

+ Think about the scene "These days, you can set up a scene, which means it's not just about the food," says Kirsten. Think flowers, servingware, a grazing table and a drinks station. You might as well show off all the different areas of that beautiful home.

+ Insta stalk When it comes to displaying food, Instagram will rival Pinterest for inspiration. It's a rich seam of beautiful food and combos.

DON'T

+ Skimp on condiments Adding a range of chutneys, dressings, fresh vegetable toppings and mustards will allow people to customise their meals, and give your setting another layer. Plus, they're often pretty in colour and texture. Decant them into smaller vessels.

+ Chop things too small "People often make the mistake of chopping things too small," says Kirsten. "When you're catering for a lot of people, you want to leave as many things whole as possible. Potatoes – roast them whole. Salads, keep the leaves whole. Chopping takes time – you don't want to triple the workload."

+ Limit your salads Choose three salads and maybe one other side option on the off-chance your friends eat – heaven forbid – gluten or carbs. "Include something that includes starchy veg, as that'll feel more substantial," says Kirsten. "Think potatoes, radish and carrots."

+ Offer too many drinks And we're not just talking consumption. When it comes to drinks, limit the choice to a couple of different options and set them up in a separate drinks area. Where possible, pre-mix jugs for guests to help themselves to. It'll stop you having to 'top up' all night.



3 tips for a stress-free catch-up with friends
from Sam Gant (right), co-founder of Pot & Pan Culinary Tailoring

Sam runs her catering company with her wife, Celeste (pictured, left).

1. Shop for the ingredients and prepare what you can the day before so on the day, you're just putting it all together.

2. Organise the table setting that morning before you do anything else; it sets the tone of any event. This also means your guests are greeted by a beautiful and relaxed setting.

3. Organise pre-dinner drinks and a cheese and charcuterie board ready for the arrival of your guests. This will buy you extra time to put the final touches to the main event.

Sam's easy Sunday barbie lunch

STARTER A cheese and charcuterie board for your guests on arrival means they are instantly treated with something to snack on. Pick a few beautiful cheeses and meats from your local deli and serve with nuts, grapes, dips and a baguette.

MAINS We love to give our guests options; less is more, but not when it comes to full stomachs!

Lamb backstrap with the fat left on (ask your butcher to do this). It's as simple as using salt, pepper, garlic and rosemary and rendering the lamb fat. The smell will be mouth-watering when guests are enjoying their aperitifs.

Rib-eye rack Cook on the charcoal grill with tarragon, shallots and butter. Mash fresh tarragon with room temperature butter, garlic, sea salt and pepper, roll up and put in the fridge. This way you can cut it off in rounds to serve (you can do this the day before). Have the rack cooking before guests arrive – this can take 45 minutes depending on the barbecue temperature.

Fish We love white fleshy fish, such as rockling. Rub in salt and pepper and cook for 5-8 minutes, depending on the size of the fillet. Make a burnt butter sage sauce to pour over the fish to serve.

SALADS **Tomato and peach** Wedges of tomato and peach with buffalo mozzarella, torn basil, a splash of white wine vinegar, a pinch of salt and a really good drizzle of olive oil – delicious and super-easy to make.

Rocket, fig, candied walnut and Meredith Dairy goat cheese Drizzle with the oil from the goat cheese and toss. The walnuts can be prepared the night before; the rest is put together on the day. No dressing is needed.

Blanched green beans with toasted almonds and lemon zest tossed with a bit of the tarragon butter. You can blanch the green beans the night before, then heat and throw on the barbie.

For more details, visit potandpan.com.au.

me & my kitchen

Seven famous foodies share what they love best about their own cooking zones

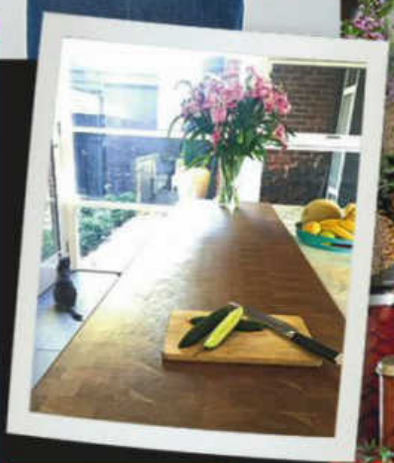
COMPILED BY **FIONA JOY**



rachel khoo

A kitchen has to be practical – it's important to think about the function and how you're going to move around it. I hang my utensils and pots and pans, and I love curating open displays with pretty things from my travels.
My design tip Keep things within arm's reach – there's nothing wrong with having a small kitchen as long as storage is right.
My entertaining tip Make sure you have the right mix of people to bring together.
Catch Rachel's TV series Kitchen Notebook London, *Thursdays at 7.30pm on SBS.*





matt preston

My favourite things about my kitchen are the amount of bench space for prepping and plating, the three ovens – including a steam oven – and loads of cupboard space.
My design tip A good electric oven that heats to an accurate temperature is a must, and great if it can run accurately at levels under 100°C.
My entertaining tip Dump serving an entree and instead make an effort with snacks and a jug of cocktails on arrival.
Find more tips from Matt at taste.com.au.



maggie beer

I love how I can open the windows to let in the fresh air while I'm cooking. My marble-topped butcher's block is equally prized in my kitchen; it not only provides a prep space but also becomes an ad hoc bar.
My design tip Let the practical aspect be equal to the sentimental. Our kitchen is a room that goes well beyond cooking.
My entertaining tip Cooking is easier when you have bench space around you, so when I cook for guests, I clear away any clutter.
The Maggie Beer Foundation campaigns for better services in aged care. Visit maggiebeerfoundation.org.au.









maeve o'meara

My kitchen opens out to the garden and outdoor cooking area so I have a great view and my herb garden is always being picked over for salads and dressings.
My design tip The work triangle, between sink, fridge and stove, needs to be close but not too close.
My entertaining tip The secret ingredient is you! Being organised means you're able to enjoy what you've created.
Watch Maeve on Food Safari Fire *on SBS.*











adam liaw

We have a big open-plan kitchen with a wide island bench. There are no over-bench cupboards, which means we can enjoy the windows that make the space light.
My design tip If you're planning on having a kitchen island, keep it bare – no cooktop or sink. Then guests can hang around it, chat and make drinks without getting in the way.
My entertaining tip Flip it around to make the 'party' first priority and 'dinner' second. Atmosphere is so important. Of course, if the food is good, too, you've nailed it.
Adam is host of Destination Flavour *on SBS.*

julie goodwin

My home kitchen is open-plan to the living areas of the house so I'm part of the action when I cook. My favourite thing is the table where we gather for family meals.
My design tip It's important to give yourself plenty of storage space and bench space. Allow for a second fridge and oven.
My entertaining tip It's all in the prep! Get as much done as you can before your guests arrive so you can relax and enjoy their company while they're there.
Julie co-hosts the breakfast show on Central Coast's Star 104.5.

karen martini

We're currently in the process of designing the ideal everyday entertainer's kitchen. It involves two cooking areas, a freestanding cooker and a long, deep island bench.
My design tip I would factor in a recycling area. Our sustainable and resourceful ways still leave us with food-scrap waste, so being efficient in composting is the way forward.
My entertaining tip A welcome drink on arrival and cook one or two dishes you've done before so you don't risk the dinner!
Karen's book, New Kitchen *($44.99, Pan MacMillan), is out now.*



NutriBullet 'Rx' personal blender, $399.99, David Jones, davidjones.com.au.



Vitamix 'S30' personal blender, $845, vitamix.com.au.



Oster 'Versa' performance blender, $999, Harvey Norman, harveynorman.com.au.



Breville 'Boss To Go' personal blender, $199, Big W, bigw.com.au.

George Foreman 'Mix & Go XL Blast' personal blender, $149, Appliances Online, appliances online.com.au.

KitchenAid 'Magnetic Drive' blender, $999, kitchenaid.com.au.

BUYER'S GUIDE

juicers

Say goodbye to the hipster who serves up your Green Goddess and hello to the latest blenders

WORDS **FIONA JOY**

bullet

This space-savvy machine will serve up your breakfast smoothie with lightning-fast speed

Personal blenders pulverise ingredients into liquid and are great for DIY smoothies and juices. The advantage they have over a regular juicer is that you can combine the blending and drinking in a single piece of kit. Extra features include spill-proof lids, drinking spouts and a carry handle so you can have your juice to go. Unlike juicers, they don't filter out the fibre, which means the end product is more nutritious. (Some have even claimed that because you're consuming smaller particles than you would just chewing your food, they might be unlocking additional nutrients that would otherwise remain unprocessed.) Most personal blenders deal happily with berries and leaves; some are hardy enough to cope with ice and carrots. Depending on how hard you want to go, check out what's under the hood before you buy.

cold press

They aren't especially portable but for a nutrient-rich treat, these juicers are the gold standard

Cold-press juicers also known as slow juicers crush and squeeze to extract juice from the fruit and vegetables. They therefore don't have the problems tackling leafy greens and nuts that a traditional centrifugal juicer has, and it's claimed they produce a higher quality end product to boot; as less heat is generated by the process, all the enzymes and nutrients are better preserved. Cold-press juicers are whisper quiet (no waking up the household after your morning jog) and easier to clean, which is a blessing. On the downside, they're a little slower as the juice is extracted and there's more cost up front. But for the true aficionado, it doesn't get much better than this. 10



Kuvings 'C7000' whole slow juicer, $799, kuvings.net.au.

These high-powered machines are great for green juices and nut milks as they can cut through hardy leaves and nuts with ease.

Sunbeam 'JE9000' slow juicer, $299, sunbeam.com.au.

Optimum '700' advanced cold press juicer, $679, Froothie, froothie.com.au.

Breville 'Juice Fountain Cold', $279.95, breville.com.au.



the colour

Look who's blushing now. Pretty pale pink is popping up on our tabletops to add a fresh hit of sweetness. Normann Copenhagen salad servers in Nude, $35, Designstuff, designstuff.com.au. 'Jessica' bowl, $39.95, Arro Home, arrohome.com.



the classic

Charles and Ray Eames have made countless contributions to the world of design. At the heart of their work is a sense of retro fun that's timeless. This stool is a perfect example – it would sit beautifully in a contemporary cooking zone. Herman Miller 'Eames' moulded wood bar stool, $1920, Living Edge, livingedge.com.au.

the hit list

What's cooking and on our kitchen wishlist this month

EDITED BY **LIANA HAKIM AND VIRGINIA JEN**



yay or nay?

...having an island bench. Head chef at Uccello, David Lovett weighs in

The deal: My favourite place to cook is at Mum and Dad's. Nothing fancy, but what they have is a big island bench, smack bang in the middle of their kitchen. Stovetop and oven to my back and a large workspace to my front – I love it!

The pros: An island bench gives you freedom and space – you can lay your ingredients out neatly; you have space to make bread and roll pastry; and you can look out to your guests, family and friends while preparing dinner.

The cons: It takes up an enormous amount of space, so you have to be prepared to sacrifice that. There is an obvious cost involved, too.

The verdict: Yay! It's my kitchen dream to have an island bench to prep and cook from. Everyone can crowd around an island bench – that feeling is so communal.

March Into Merivale is on until March 20. Events will explore the theme 'Guilty Pleasures'.



the appliance

Whether you're a coffee or tea person, your 3pm beverage of choice will be ready fast with the stainless-steel 'Artisan' 1.25L electric kettle. This compact beauty is $149 from KitchenAid. Visit kitchenaid.com.au.



the splurge

It may only stand at 73cm, but the 'Fab 5' mini fridge from Smeg makes a big impact, full of personality. It's $1990; visit smeg.com.au for info.

PHOTOGRAPHY (PORTRAIT) COURTESY OF MERIVALE, (HAY STORE) TOM FERGUSON

the detail

Clean up in minimalist style with these black-and-white scourer **sponges** ($5.80/pair) from Barkly Basics. There's also a chevron option for those who love a hit of pattern. Visit barklybasics.com.au.



the go-to store

We're long-time fans of its colour-happy trays and gridded storage boxes, so we couldn't wait for the first Hay store in Australia to open its doors. The 250-square-metre shopfront in Sydney has two floors filled with everything from teatowels and crockery to lighting and furniture. Find it at 285A Crown St, Surry Hills, Sydney.





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QUEENSLAND
Selection Gallery
94 Petrie Tce
Brisbane
Ph: 07 3369 4777

OPENING SOON
WESTERN AUSTRALIA
Selection Gallery
12 Sundercombe St
Osborne Park
Ph: 08 9446 8255

abey
www.abey.com.au

DEEP SLEEP

Bedtime has never looked so tempting with this linen/cotton bedding from Aura By Tracie Ellis's Winter 2016 range. 'Maison' quilt cover in Indigo, $199/queen; visit aurahome.com.au for info.





finishing touches

The bed is the star of a bedroom, but the supporting players the accessories have a key role, too. Here are our current faves:

1. 'Maiko' **side table**, $791, Something Beginning With, 1300 396 487. **2.** Hem 'Stripe' **throw**, $306, District, 1300 788 984. **3.** 'Luxe' **wall lamp**, from $440, ISM Objects, ismobjects.com.au. **4.** A selection of **cushions**, from $150 each, Ni.ni.creative, ninicreative.com.



cosy corner

The 'Nook' bed from Blu Dot ($1899/queen) is a contemporary take on an upholstered bed. Visit bludot.com.au.

BED & BATH NEWS

rest easy

The latest buys to turn these rooms into tranquil spaces EDITED BY **DANIELLE SELIG AND VIRGINIA JEN**



hang ups

Give your wardrobe an update – your *actual* wardrobe. For a morning-routine-sorted option, there's the clothes horse by Paul Owen ($1210, owenarchitecture.bigcartel.com). Or for a luxe look, there's the 'Noah' wardrobe from Jardan, $9972, jardan.com.au.

earn your stripes

Make a refined monochrome statement with this Missoni Home 'Seneca #601' duvet set ($1075/queen) from Spence & Lyda, (02) 9212 6747.



YAY OR NAY?

... having timber in a bathroom with architect Megan Burns of CM Studio

The pros: "When designing a bathroom, we look at how to integrate details so that finishes used are seen elsewhere in the house to create continuity. Timber is a finish we turn to time and time again to create warmth in a simple yet layered natural palette. We look to timber detailing in joinery, towel hooks or continuing a timber floor if possible.
The cons: "The maintenance. Who is living in the space, whether it's a couple or a family, and how the material is going to be used are big factors on where you can use timber."
The verdict: "Yay! Some care needs to be taken with timber but the impact always makes it worthwhile."
Visit cm-studio.com.au.

PHOTOGRAPHY: (PAUL OWEN CLOTHES HORSE) SAM THEIS, (PORTRAIT) CAROLINE McCREDIE

For more new homewares, visit *insideout.com.au/products.*

sharemystyle



We love the chic pattern play in this room Sarah Tully (@chaidays) has created.

child's play

Congratulations to our #sharemystylekidsroom category winner!

Sarah Tully (@chaidays) has won a $2000 Pottery Barn Kids gift card. See below to see how easy it is to enter our Share My Style competition.

Here are some more of our favourite entries in the **#sharemystylekidsroom** competition category





show us your home & win!

how to enter

Share a pic of your living area using both the hashtag **#sharemystyleliving** and the tag **@insideoutmag** on Instagram or Twitter



This month, you could win a 'Piper' 2.5-seater sofa in leather from Freedom, valued at $2299

share via

freedom

PHOTOGRAPHY: (TOP, FROM LEFT) SARAH TULLY, TRUDI PARLANE, SAMMI MILLS. (INSET) SARAH DE ZOETE. ENTRIES OPEN AT 00.01 AEDT ON 25/02/16 AND CLOSE AT 23.59 AEDT ON 23/03/16. OPEN TO AUSTRALIAN RESIDENTS AGED 18 YEARS AND OVER ONLY. ONE WINNER WILL BE DETERMINED AT 14.00 AEDT ON 28/03/16 AT NEWSLIFEMEDIA PTY LTD, LEVEL 1, 2 HOLT STREET, SURRY HILLS, NSW 2010. WINNER WILL BE NOTIFIED VIA THEIR PERSONAL INSTAGRAM OR TWITTER HANDLE. THIS IS A GAME OF SKILL AND CHANCE PLAYS NO PART IN DETERMINING THE WINNER. TOTAL PRIZE POOL VALUED AT $2299. FOR FULL TERMS AND CONDITIONS, VISIT INSIDEOUTCOM.AU AND SEARCH FOR 'TERMS MARCH 2016 ISSUE'. PRIVACY POLICY IS AVAILABLE AT NEWSCORPAUSTRALIAPRIVACY.COM.


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inner beauty

It's little wonder indoor plants are hot right now

From the potted palm to mossy terrariums, indoor plants have experienced a resurgence. With our appetite for in-home greenery at an all-time high, all that's left to do is to find the right plants for your place and how to best showcase their natural forms. Here, a (garden) variety of glass vessels is ideal for a coffee-table centrepiece at the heart of your living area. For more fresh and inspiring ideas on curating your indoor jungle, turn the page.



STYLING: SVEN ALBERDING. PRODUCTION: MARISSA PRETORIUS. PHOTOGRAPHY: WARREN HEATH. STORY COURTESY OF BUREAUX.CO.ZA



green room

Indoor plants are having their moment in the sun. Make the most of them with these display ideas

WORDS **MANDY ALLEN** PRODUCTION **MARISSA PRETORIUS**
STYLING **SVEN ALBERDING** PHOTOGRAPHY **WARREN HEATH**



the gathering

In an open-plan zone, a grouping of greenery creates a focal point. An assortment of glass vessels extends from the table onto the floor, adding a weightlessness to the display. The dominance of white, nude timber and organic textures also helps to enhance the sense of serenity. Creeping plants set against a wall allude to the idea of nature taking over a modern urban setting.

PLANTS: (CLIMBING ON WALL) *PHILODENDRON SCANDENS*, (ON TABLE) FERNS, SPANISH MOSS, PUSSY WILLOW, AFRICAN VIOLET

When it comes to picking indoor plants to create your own urban jungle, don't forget to get the growing conditions right. The amount of sunlight, temperature, humidity, watering, feeding, potting and re-potting are all important factors to think about.

STORY COURTESY OF BUREAUX.COZA



play & display

Construct a cool, contemporary living wall in an instant using cheap and cheerful pegboard from the hardware store. Leave your living installation on show in a hallway, bathroom or living room, or give yourself something tranquil to look at while working in your study. Air plants are especially suited to this display. Wrap hardcover books in solid coloured paper (we used green and white) and place these on racks to create shelves for displaying objects and small vessels filled with plants, pebbles and other organic ephemera. A hanging basket found at a junk shop and filled with found dried plant material adds another intriguing visual layer. For a dramatic effect, paint the pegboard black.

PLANTS: (HANGING) VANDA ORCHID; (ON WOODEN BARK) CATTLEYA ORCHID; (ON PEGBOARD) SPANISH MOSS, TILLANDSIA, SCINDAPSUS, (IN VESSEL) MICRO ORCHID; (ON TABLE, IN VESSELS) STAGHORN FERN AND SCANDENS STEM



bigger is better

Leaves are the new flowers: the oversized proportions and graphic forms of *monstera deliciosa* and a staghorn fern are marvellously dramatic and sculptural when displayed solo in simple (but beautiful) containers.

PLANTS: (LEFT) *MONSTERA DELICIOSA*, (PAGE 147) STAGHORN FERN

Give yourself something tranquil to look at while working in your study with this living installation

Create a fascinating exhibit of indoor 'miniature gardens'. Put a contemporary twist on the terrarium by arranging plants, such as ferns and mosses in glass beakers, vases and bowls, and under glass domes.





For maximum whimsy and nostalgic appeal, apothecary bottles and science beakers make ideal containers

styling know-how

1. Decorative foliage is better suited and more adaptable to indoor environments than flowers.
2. Select plants with various shapes, textures, colours and patterns for graphic effect.
3. Group plants the way you would accessories or other objects and display them in a living vignette on a tabletop, mantelpiece or shelf.
4. Consider a combination of climbing and trailing plants, decorative baskets, terrariums and plants in bottles to create room dividers or windowsill displays.



cabinet of curiosities

Conjure up the charming atmosphere of a Victorian botanist's study or conservatory by displaying greenery in an antique cabinet, vintage shop fitting or other quirky storage unit. For maximum whimsy and nostalgic appeal, apothecary bottles and science beakers make for ideal containers. Scour junk shops and markets for old gardening accessories to include in the composition.

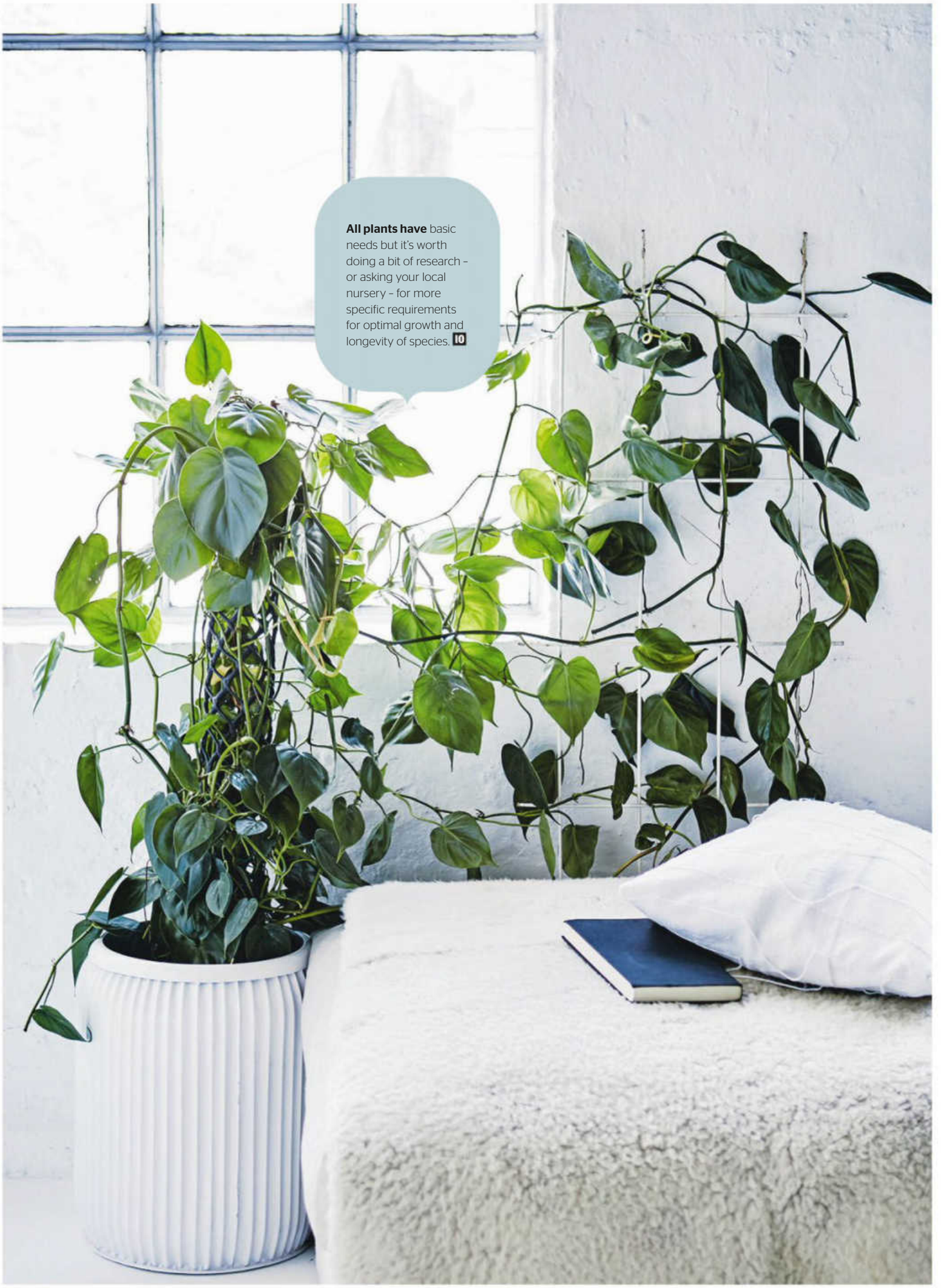
PLANTS: (IN CABINET) TRAILING IVY, FERNS, POOR MAN'S ORCHID, SPANISH MOSS, DRIED MOSSES, GARDEN CUTTINGS, FOLIAGE; (ON TABLE) AFRICAN VIOLET



living screen

An inviting way to define different zones in an open-plan area is by using plants instead of solid forms. Here, the juxtaposition of clean lines with lush plants escaping their containers and on-trend hanging plants gives this chic space a bohemian quality.

PLANTS: (ON MAIN SHELVING UNIT) *PHILODENDRON SCANDENS* AND NEPHROLEPIS FERN; (ON TABLE, UNDER CLOCHE): WILD ORCHID; (HANGING PLANTS) PALM, *MONSTERA DELICIOSA* AND YUKKA; (ON STAND) *PHILODENDRON SCANDENS*


All plants have basic needs but it's worth doing a bit of research – or asking your local nursery – for more specific requirements for optimal growth and longevity of species. 10

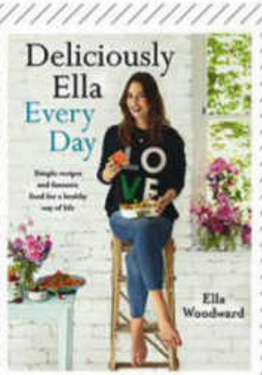




deliciously good

Blogger Ella Woodward shares her 10 easy steps for eating well and enjoying food

WORDS AND RECIPE **ELLA WOODWARD** PHOTOGRAPHY **CLARE WINFIELD**



This is an edited extract from *Deliciously Ella Every Day* by Ella Woodward, published by Hachette Australia on January 27, 2016. Trade Paperback RRP $29.99.

1. Enjoy your food No matter what you're eating, whether it's kale or pizza, savour each flavour. Food should always be fun.

2. Don't look at healthy eating as a 'diet' It's a lifestyle, so don't deprive or starve yourself, as this won't make you happy or healthy.

3. Open your mind You'll find healthy food is so much better than bland salads and you'll enjoy it far more.

4. Balance is everything! Find what works for you, set realistic goals and be happy with them.

5. Be organised Take a little time every week to stock your fridge with nourishing ingredients, snacks and meals, so you always have something delicious to eat.

6. Treat your body with respect It is a beautiful, amazing thing that needs to be listened to. Your body knows what it needs, we just need to learn to hear what it's saying.

7. Eat a rainbow Try to make each meal as colourful as you can. Not only will this give you the best array of vitamins and minerals, it will also make your plate look more beautiful and appetising.

8. Don't feel guilty If all you want is chocolate cake, then eat a slice and enjoy it. Don't binge-eat it and feel guilty afterwards, and absolutely don't restrict what you eat the next day as a result. Remember: no-one is perfect!

9. Get creative Enjoy experimenting in the kitchen with new recipes and ingredients, adapt them as you like and don't be afraid to try different things.

10. Slow down Take a minute to enjoy what you're eating and don't inhale your food. It takes about 20 minutes for your brain to register how full you are, plus you won't appreciate how great the food is if you don't take the time to think about it while you eat each bite.





Blogger Ella Woodward lives by a healthy-eating approach.

chocolate ganache cake

Makes 1 cake

Coconut oil, for the tin
3 avocados
7 tbsp almond butter
8 tbsp raw cacao powder, plus more to dust (optional)
11 tbsp maple syrup
140g ground almonds
3 tbsp chia seeds

For the frosting
4 tbsp coconut oil
4 tbsp raw cacao powder
4 tbsp maple syrup

1. Preheat the oven to 180°C (fan-forced 160°C). Oil a 20cm cake tin with coconut oil; I don't line it with baking paper as my 'tin' is made from silicone. If yours isn't, you might want to.

2. Scoop the avocado flesh out of the skins; discard the stones.

3. Add the avocado to a food processor with all the other ingredients and blend until smooth. Scrape the batter into the prepared tin and level the top.

4. Bake for 30 minutes or until a knife inserted into the centre comes out clean. Leave to cool for at least 20 minutes before turning out of the tin.

5. Sift over a little more cacao powder if you like, to serve, as shown, or make the frosting. For the frosting, warm the coconut oil in a saucepan just until it melts. Stir in all the other ingredients until you have a smooth, glossy glaze. Use it to frost the top of the cold cake, then leave to set.

> "This chocolate cake may be the simplest cake ever. I've yet to find anyone who didn't love it"

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tea & treats

Create a fresh take on high tea at home with this banquet of delectable dishes and an elegant tabletop



PAINT COLOUR MAY VARY ON APPLICATION



Cheese & chive scones

STYLING **DANIELLE SELIG** FOOD STYLING **BERNADETTE SMITHIES** PHOTOGRAPHY **JEREMY SIMONS**



Chicken & herb sandwiches
Prawn & dill sandwiches

No afternoon tea is complete without a finger sandwich. Use modern cake stands for a refined tabletop



Orange & pistachio cake

chicken & herb sandwiches

MAKES 36 finger sandwiches
PREPARATION TIME 45 minutes

1 large barbecued chicken, skin removed
1 cup whole-egg mayonnaise
1 lime, rind finely grated, juiced
1 loaf white sandwich sliced bread
80g butter, softened
80g baby rocket, roughly chopped
¾ cup mixed herb leaves (such as dill, parsley, basil and mint), finely chopped
1 loaf wholemeal sandwich sliced bread

1. Remove chicken from bones and chop finely. Place into a bowl. Add mayonnaise, lime rind, lime juice, and salt and pepper. Stir until well combined.
2. Place 4 slices of white bread onto a chopping board. Spread lightly with butter. Sprinkle with rocket and mixed herbs. Top each with a slice of wholemeal bread. Spread 2 heaped tablespoons of chicken mixture over each slice. Top with another slice of buttered white bread. Use a serrated knife to remove and discard the crusts.
3. Cut each sandwich into 3 fingers. Place on a serving platter. Cover with a clean damp tea towel. Repeat with remaining ingredients. Refrigerate until required.

prawn & dill sandwiches

MAKES 12 finger sandwiches
PREPARATION TIME 10 minutes

200g cooked peeled prawns, coarsely chopped
⅓ cup (80g) mayonnaise
2 tbsp finely chopped dill
1 tbsp lemon juice
8 slices white bread
50g softened butter

1. Combine prawns, mayonnaise, dill and lemon juice in a small bowl. Taste and season with salt and pepper.
2. Place bread on a clean work surface and spread evenly with butter. Spoon prawn mixture evenly among half the slices and gently smooth. Sandwich together with remaining bread slices.
3. Use a serrated knife to remove and discard crusts. Cut each sandwich into thirds to make finger sandwiches. Place on a serving platter and serve immediately.

strawberry sponge cakes

MAKES 6
PREPARATION TIME 25 minutes

350g double unfilled round sponge cake
250g cream cheese, softened
¼ cup thickened cream
2 tsp vanilla extract
250g strawberries, hulled, sliced
½ cup strawberry jam
1 tbsp pure icing sugar

1. Place sponge cake layers on a chopping board. Using an 8cm round cutter, cut 3 circles from each cake (see note). Using a sharp knife, gently cut each circle in half from the side.
2. Using an electric mixer, beat cream cheese until smooth. Add cream and vanilla. Beat until mixture thickens.
3. Spread cream cheese mixture over sponge cake bases. Top with strawberry slices. Place jam in a heatproof, microwave-safe bowl. Microwave, uncovered, on high, for 30 seconds or until warm and runny. Spoon warm jam over strawberries.
4. Sandwich together with sponge tops. Dust with icing sugar and serve.
Note: To cut out circles more easily, freeze sponge cake layers for 2 hours or until almost firm.

OPPOSITE: Valerie Restarick celadon **platter**, $175, Mr Kitly, mrkitly.com.au. Cambridge **cake forks**, $3.25 each, The Bay Tree, thebaytree.com.au. 'Avignon' **napkin**, $79/set of 4, White Home, whitehome.com.au. HK Living mango wood **plates**, $15 each, Collector Store, collectorstore.com.au. 'Bailey' **dining table** (throughout), $699, Freedom, freedom.com.au.

CHEESE & CHIVE SCONES (page 157): Oval tasting **plate**, $55, Samantha Robinson, samantharobinson.com.au. 'Avignon' **napkin**, $79/set of 4, White Home, as before. **Platter**, $90, and **teacups and saucers**, $75/set, Mud Australia, mudaustralia.com.au. Cutipol 'Goa' coffee **spoon**, $25.90, Francalia, francalia.com.au.

SANDWICHES (page 158): Y'a Pas Le Feu Au Lac 'Arbour' **cake stand**, $159.50, Top3 By Design, top3.com.au. Limoges 'Marie Daage' **plates**, $89 each, Serin Cini, (02) 9958 0111. Society 'Tab Fr' **napkin**, $245/set of 6, Ondene, ondene.com.au. Marimekko 'Oiva' **teapot**, $109, The Modern Furniture Store, themodern.net.au. Background in 'Clean & Protect' low sheen interior **paint** in Forest Scene, $60.90/4L, British Paints, britishpaints.com.au.

ORANGE & PISTACHIO CAKE (page 159): Cake stand, stylist's own. 'Green Clover' **gravy jug**, $80, Samantha Robinson, samantharobinson.com.au. Herdmar **cake server**, $45, Collector Store, as before. 'Avignon' **napkin**, $79/set of 4, White Home, as before. Magis 'Cyborg Club' **chair** by Marcel Wanders, $899, Cult, cultdesign.com.au.

TASTE.COM.AU RECIPES: (CHICKEN & HERB SANDWICHES) DIXIE ELLIOTT, (PRAWN & DILL SANDWICHES) SARAH HOBBS, (STRAWBERRY SPONGE CAKES) MICHELLE NOERIANTO



Add fluffy sponge cake to the classic combo of strawberries and cream for a scrumptious treat

Strawberry sponge cakes

cheese & chive scones

MAKES 12
PREPARATION TIME 25 minutes
COOKING TIME 20 minutes

3½ cups self-raising flour
1 tbsp caster sugar
1 tsp salt
60g butter, chopped
1½ cups milk
2 tbsp finely chopped fresh chives
1 tsp dried mixed herbs
⅔ cup grated tasty cheese
Extra milk, for brushing
Butter, to serve

1. Preheat oven to 220°C/200°C fan-forced. Grease and flour an 18cm x 28cm (base) slice pan.
2. Place flour, sugar and salt in a large bowl. Add butter. Rub butter into flour until mixture resembles breadcrumbs.
3. Make a well in the centre. Add milk, chives, dried herbs and ¾ of the cheese. Using a flat-bladed knife, stir until dough almost comes together. Turn out onto a lightly floured surface.
4. Knead gently until dough comes together. Press out to a 3cm-thick round. Dip a 6cm round cutter into flour. Cut out scones. Gently press leftover dough pieces together and repeat to make a total 12 scones.
5. Place scones, just touching, in prepared pan. Brush with extra milk. Sprinkle with remaining cheese. Bake for 15 to 20 minutes or until light golden and hollow when tapped on top. Serve with butter.

orange & pistachio cake

SERVES 10
PREPARATION TIME 30 minutes
COOKING TIME 1 hour 5 minutes

1¾ cups caster sugar
1 large (300g) navel orange, thinly sliced (see note)
185g butter, softened
1 tsp ground cardamom
3 eggs
1½ cups self-raising flour, sifted
½ cup plain flour, sifted
½ cup finely chopped pistachio kernels, toasted
¼ cup buttermilk

1. Preheat oven to 180°C/160°C fan-forced. Grease a 6cm-deep, 22cm round cake pan. Line base and side with baking paper.
2. Combine 1 cup sugar and 1½ cups cold water in a large frying pan over medium heat. Cook, stirring, for 6 to 8 minutes or until sugar has dissolved. Bring to the boil. Cook, uncovered, for 5 minutes or until slightly thickened. Add orange. Cook, turning halfway, for 7 minutes or until tender.
3. Using tongs, carefully remove orange from syrup. Line base of prepared pan with orange, overlapping slightly. Reserve syrup.
4. Using an electric mixer, beat butter, cardamom and remaining sugar on high speed for 5 minutes or until light and fluffy. Add eggs, 1 at a time, beating well after each addition.
5. Stir in half the flours, pistachio kernels and buttermilk until just combined. Repeat with remaining flours, pistachio kernels and milk. Spread mixture over orange. Bake for 45 minutes or until a skewer inserted in centre comes out clean. Stand cake in pan for 15 minutes. Turn out onto a wire rack to cool. Drizzle with reserved syrup. Serve.
Note: You will need 14 thin orange slices.
Tip: Cake is best made on day of serving.

madeira cake

SERVES 10
PREPARATION TIME 15 minutes
COOKING TIME 50 minutes

225g butter, softened
1 cup caster sugar
3 tsp orange rind, finely grated
1 tsp lemon rind, finely grated
3 eggs
1 cup self-raising flour
¾ cup plain flour
½ cup milk

1. Preheat oven to 180°C/160°C fan-forced. Grease a 6cm-deep, 11.5cm x 20cm loaf pan. Line base and sides with baking paper, extending the paper 2cm from the edge on the long sides.
2. Using an electric mixer, beat butter, sugar and orange and lemon rind until light and fluffy. Add eggs, 1 at a time, beating after each addition. Sift half the flours over mixture. Fold until just combined. Add half the milk. Fold until just combined. Repeat with remaining flours and milk. Spoon mixture into prepared pan. Smooth surface.
3. Bake for 45 to 50 minutes or until a skewer inserted in centre comes out clean. Stand in pan for 10 minutes. Turn, top-side up, onto a wire rack. Serve warm or at room temperature. 10

OPENER (page 156): Limoges 'Marie Daage' **plates**, $89 each, Serin Cini, (02) 9958 0111. 'Flared' **plates**, $45 each, Mud Australia, mudaustralia.com. Society 'Tab Fr' **napkins**, $245/set of 6, Ondene, ondene.com.au. **Cake stand**, stylist's own. Y'a Pas Le Feu Au Lac 'Arbour' **cake stand**, $159.50, Top3 By Design, top3.com.au. Hay 'Paper Porcelain' coffee **cup and saucer** by Scholten & Baijings, $63 each, Cult, cultdesign.com.au. Cutipol 'Goa' coffee **spoon**, $25.90, Francalia, francalia.com.au. Valerie Restarick celadon **platter**, $175, Mr Kitly, mrkitly.com.au. Time & Style 'Vent Blanc' **teapot**, $279, Ginkgo Leaf, ginkgoleaf.com.au. 'Alison' **vase**, $49, and Zakkia brass bottle **vase**, $19, Urban Couture Design + Homewares, urbancouture.com.au. 'Fig' **vase**, $85, Bisonhome, bisonhome.com. 'Bailey' **dining table**, $699, Freedom, freedom.com.au. 'Woodstack' **chair** by Tomek Archer, from $355, Nomi, nomi.com.au. Magis 'Cyborg Club' **chair** by Marcel Wanders, $899, Cult, cultdesign.com.au. Background in 'Clean & Protect' low sheen interior **paint** in Forest Scene, $60.90/4L, British Paints, britishpaints.com.au.

MADEIRA CAKE (opposite): The Fortynine Studio 'Flip Flop Slip' **platter**, $95, Funkis, funkis.com. Hay 'Paper Porcelain' coffee **cup and saucer** by Scholten & Baijings, $63 each, Cult, as before. Cutipol 'Goa' coffee **spoon**, $25.90, Francalia, as before. Zakkia brass bottle **vase**, $19, Urban Couture Design + Homewares, as before. Background in 'Clean & Protect' low sheen interior **paint** in Forest Scene, $60.90/4L, British Paints, britishpaints.com.au.

TASTE.COM.AU RECIPES: (CHEESE & CHIVE SCONES) KIRRILY LA ROSA; (ORANGE & PISTACHIO CAKE) EMMA BRAZ; (MADEIRA CAKE) CATHIE LONNIE. PAINT COLOUR MAY VARY ON APPLICATION

For more recipes, visit *taste.com.au.*

Bring a contemporary feel to your setting with polished finishes, geometric pieces and feature platters



Madeira cake

stockists

Here are all the numbers and websites you need to get shopping! Don't be misled by suppliers listing Sydney or Melbourne phone numbers – they are often head offices or distributors who can find a retailer in your area



Check out the latest fabric trends for your home on page 64.



For more of this elegant abode, turn to page 74.

a-e

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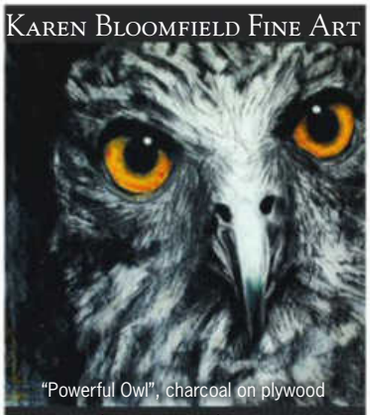
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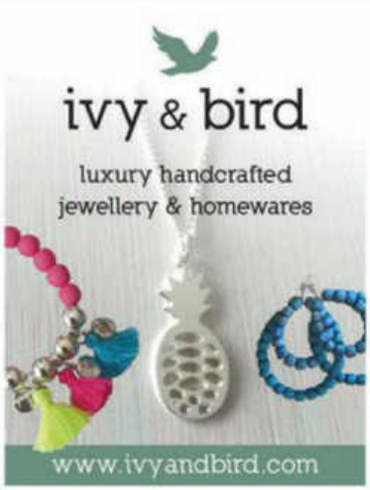
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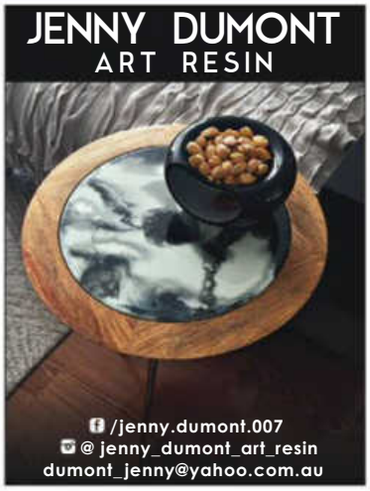




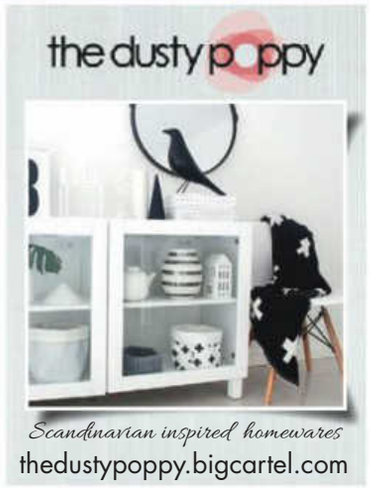
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Christian Paul has resolved to master the art of effortless dressing and to follow the one golden rule that when it comes to accessories, less is definitely more. Starring brand ambassador Kate Waterhouse, the fashion forward label has released a new collection - the Luxe Range featuring Austrian crystals indexes, the on-trend Grid Range and the signature Marble Range, which has received a new-look enamel finish. All timepieces now feature interchangeable straps, giving you more scope to style Christian Paul for any occasion.

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Ask Megsy

Our Agony Aunt Meg Mason dishes out somewhat questionable style and decorating advice to would-be DIY renovators

I'm about to move in with my new partner, who has a major clutter issue. How can I cull his possessions without hurting his feelings? I'm pretty sure he's 'the one'.

Davina, Herston, Qld

When it comes to epic love stories, darling, we've all heard of Romeo and Juliet. Tristan and Isolde. Miss Elizabeth Bennet and Colin Firth.

But have you ever heard of Steve and Trish? Rod and Prue? No, of course you haven't. Neither have I. For every legendary romance that's warmed our collective loins, a hundred others flamed out too soon, simply because one of the ill-fated lovers could not let go of their signed Year Six jersey and backlog of weekend supplements.

Hearts can and will be broken over clutter, Davina, so you're wise to seek counsel. And the go-to tome of the moment seems to be *The Life-changing Magic Of Tidying Up* by a Japanese lady called Marie Kondo, who has parlayed accordion-style sock storage into a 'cult following' – which either means she's sold millions of copies, or legions of the faithful are currently eating freeze-dried beans in exceptionally well-organised underground bunkers, awaiting a very orderly rapture.

I've given it a skim and, according to her method for losing unwanted house weight, every indoor soccer trophy and empty Dolmio jar has to be held, appraised and only kept if it "sparks joy". Since she doesn't specify joy in whom, or expressly state that you're not allowed to KonMari other people's houses without asking, I think you're legally clear to start appraising on his behalf. (She also doesn't say it's all right to use a pair of long-handled barbecue tongs for the holding bit, but depending on the nature of your soulmate's hoard, I'd certainly pop that idea into the mix.)

Marie does believe that owning something that never gets used robs the object of its "dignity". Although, you do have to ask how much dignity an inflatable horse costume from the 2005 office Cup lunch possessed to begin with. The fact it's been taking up the spare room's built-in robe for a decade seems like the least of your worries in some ways.

She also recommends thanking every item that is used daily for its loving service. But now I find myself beginning to feel quite flat, Davina, imagining you holding two Sea World schooners at eye height and whispering your gratitude at them.

In fact, I'm wondering if it isn't better to KonMari your partner. Hold him, appraise him. Do you use him every day or is he just taking up space and preventing you from pursuing your real dream, which is being able to find the Foxtel clicker and not having to shower with any fishing gear. Does he spark joy or might you be hanging onto him for old time's sake? In case he comes in handy one day? If so, I'd say thank him for his former service, and drive him straight to the charity bins.



What are the best house plants? I'm no gardener, but I'd love some green around the place.

Sophie, Surry Hills, NSW

Like you, Soph, I've paid thousands over the years for the privilege of watching another fruit-shop cymbidium die slowly on the windowsill. Lately though, I've discovered a touch of green that's hardy, resilient, and puts up with being ignored for months on end. Your $4 bunch of kale. Pop it in a jar and you'll have it forever – no watering required. IO

revive the... vestibule terrarium A forgotten *objet* ripe for resurgence

Upon entering the smartest '70s homes, there was always a moment of happy confusion thanks to the gravelled, green-lit garden in the hall. Are we inside or outside? Or in the nursery of a very small Bunnings? Either way, where shall we put the Disaronno?

Stay tuned for more of Meg's invaluable renovating tips in our next issue.

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